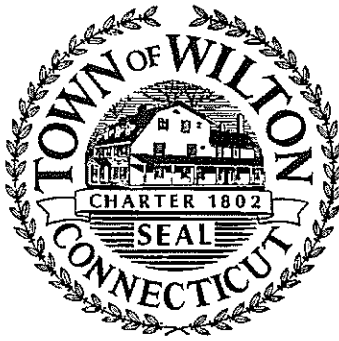


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

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TOWN HALL

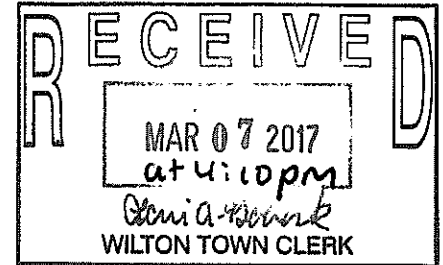
238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY March 1, 2017 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"



MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Jackie Algon, Frank Simone, Colleen O'Brien, Jeff Lapnow, Brice Chaney
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Gil Hollander, Wilton Energy Commission
- III. ABSENT: Jade Hobson & Susan DiLoreto (notified of intended absences)
- IV. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Algon called the meeting to order at 7:32pm
- V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None
- VI. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None
- VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. **Parks Reports** – Nothing new to report.

B. **Conservation Activity Log Updates**

Quarry Head Trail Consolidation – Nothing new to report.

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Nothing new to report. Mr. Lapnow asked to be placed as the secondary contact for this initiative.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon confirmed a walk is being scheduled in the spring at the Woodcock Nature Preserve with a picnic lunch afterwards in their outdoor pavilion. She stated the next walk is being scheduled for March 12th and will be held at Belknap at 1 pm with Ms. O'Brien as the lead. Mr. Chaney asked to be added as a secondary contact for this program on the activity log. Mr. Chaney stated his neighbor has therapy horses that may be a good option for an event. Mr. Conklin stated Belknap Preserve is not good for horses, whereas the Gregg Preserve has more Jeep trails and is more suitable. Ms. Algon reported a meditation walk is also being scheduled for May (possibly the 21st) with the location to be determined by Lee Ann Schneider who runs meditation classes nearby.

Kent Pond Management – Mr. Conklin confirmed Kent Pond neighbors held a meeting last fall to discuss the water quality in the pond. The Pond & Lake Connection was contacted by the neighbors for their recommendations after successfully working with the Town on Horseshoe Pond improvements. Town staff reviewed the reports with South Norwalk Electric & Water (SNEW) as the pond feeds to Rock Lake Reservoir. SNEW was against considering any chemicals for this drinking water reservoir.

Mr. Conklin confirmed Ms. Fanzutti is drafting a pond management plan. Her plan will include how to reduce pollutant loads and what can be done short and long term for water quality improvements. Once this report is completed, another meeting will be held with the neighbors to review the plan. The Town is currently working on permit for stocking grass carp. There are other options to reduce plant growth that may begin this year such as blankets placed on the bottom of the pond. Mr. Lapnow asked what the pipe is that come out in the area of the pond. Mr. Conklin stated it is a fire draw for the fire department.

Mr. Conklin provided background on this project whereas a small group met with the First Selectman several months ago to ask what the town is going to do to increase the health of this town-owned pond. Ms. Vanderslice asked this group to come up with a plan on the best way to handle the invasives and start fundraising as the town is not in a position to fund any improvements. Mr. Conklin advised this is the same way the beautification of Horseshoe Pond began.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. Tree Committee – Nothing to report.
- ii. Deer Committee – Mr. Conklin confirmed there will be a full report from the 2016 season shortly. Mr. Lapnow expressed interest in joining this committee.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Wilton Go Green Announcement for Clean-Up Day** – Mr. Conklin spoke with Go Green to see if we can partner with them on clean-up day. He confirmed the group was not interested in helping out with clean up, but asked if we can gather everyone at the end of the event and have a time for some Go Green announcements. The commissioners stated it would not be a good idea to have an announcement period as each volunteer comes back with their full garbage bags at different times.
- B. Spring Newsletter Planning** – Mr. Conklin stated Ms. Fanzutti is writing an article on the Kent Pond improvements and Townwide Clean-Up Day. He also indicated an article on the bee pollinator highway is being done in conjunction with Donna Merrill from the Wilton Land Trust. He suggested that this newsletter be really strong to make up for the lack of a Fall Newsletter. Mr. Conklin confirmed the newsletter will go out to residents towards the end of March.
- C. Home Energy Solutions Flyer for Newsletter** – Patrice Gillespie approached Mr. Conklin to ask if we would allow a Home Energy Solutions flyer insert in our Spring Newsletter. Mr. Conklin noted the Commission previously wanted to keep the mailing for commission only business. Mr. Simone commented that Go Green is not a town commission. Mr. Hollander explained this initiative is in conjunction with the

Energy Commission and Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) to assist homeowners and the town to save energy. Mr. Simone stated his opinion that placing flyers in our newsletter dilutes it and is a bad precedent for future newsletters. He suggested that we include a blurb on the Energy Commission initiative if there is room left over. Ms. Algon stated it is not conservation friendly to have multiple mailings. Mr. Simone countered that Home Energy Solutions advertises in many capacities. Mr. Lapnow added that CL&P makes money so they should create their own newsletter. Mr. Chaney stated this would be a commercial opportunity for CL&P and Home Energy Solutions. Ms. O'Brien stated this message does not fit with our goals. Ms. Algon thought the commission should either decline or suggest the Energy Commission pay for their own postage the flyer would create.

Frank Simone MOVED to not include the Home Energy Solutions Flyer in the Conservation Commission Newsletter, SECONDED by Jeff Lapnow, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- a. Revising Minutes Discussion** – Mr. Conklin stated an FOIA complaint was filed against the Conservation Commission regarding timely filing of minutes.

Mr. Simone MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss this matter away from the public, and to invite Mr. Conklin, with no secondment, the motion did not carry. The member of the public left the meeting.

Mr. Conklin reviewed the process to revise minutes that have been posted. He explained Ms. Larkin types the minutes after a meeting and Mr. Conklin reviews and approves them prior to dissemination to the public within seven days of a meeting per State Statute. He explained that if a Commissioner wants to make any revision to the minutes, they can submit their typed changes to Ms. Larkin and we will add the changes to the minutes of the next meeting. He reiterated that the minutes do not change and revisions will appear in the next meeting's minutes. Mr. Conklin added that certain corrections are important such as substance if a point was misconstrued, but minor typos or alternate wordings are not something to include.

Mr. Conklin asked that each Commissioner reply only to Ms. Larkin when a quorum request is sent so that these emails cannot be construed as a meeting. Mr. Simone asked that Ms. Larkin specify in her email to just reply to her. Mr. Conklin noted that Ms. Larkin completes detailed minutes that we can refer to in the future but minutes could be as simple as "a discussion ensued" with only votes noted.

- b. 2/1/17 Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Algon submitted some major edits from these minutes but Mr. Conklin asked her to type them up for ease of use. Ms. O'Brien MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 4-0-1 with Ms. Algon abstaining as she asked to take time to type her responses.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Algon made a MOTION to ADD a pollinator pathway discussion to the agenda, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Ms. Algon confirmed she, Donna Merrill, the Wilton Garden Club, NRWA and Woodcock Nature Center, with support from Go Green and Wilton Library are attempting to introduce a pathway that would go from the Ridgefield line south to Sackett Preserve. Their goal is to build public support for reducing lawn and adding pollinator friendly

plants on residential properties. Their original idea was to give away trees when a resident signs a pledge. She noted there will be some demonstration gardens installed and a panel discussion will take place at the Library before a planned butterfly walk in August. Mr. Lapnow offered his expertise with plants for this initiative. Mr. Conklin added that he recently spoke with someone that wants to showcase her property for youth education and suggested that the group involve her in this process.

- XII. ADJOURN** – Mr. Lapnow MOVED to adjourn at 9:10 pm, SECONDED by Mr. Chaney, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be April 5, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs