

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY May 2, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2018 MAY -7 A 11:31
BY: af

- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Frank Simone, Jade Hobson, Jackie Algon, Brice Chaney
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Lynne Vanderslice, First Selectwoman; Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary
- III. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
- IV. Lynne Vanderslice – Fracking Waste Questions

Ms. Vanderslice stated she was concerned about some inaccuracies that were heard at the last meeting in April so she wanted to clarify some points relating to a fracking waste ban in Wilton. She confirmed the House Bill passed with a favorable vote but the Senate never voted on the matter. She noted without the vote, the fracking waste is banned under a statewide moratorium and confirmed permits that are outstanding with DEEP do not automatically get approved after a certain timeframe as previously assumed.

Ms. Vanderslice confirmed Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) provided a memo which was supported by a vote at the Board of Selectmen that the town does not have the expertise to write or enforce a local law on banning fracking waste at this time. Ms. Vanderslice and Ms. DiLoreto suggested writing to the leadership of the House with a recommendation to bring the vote forward.

V. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

A. SDP, CH241 Danbury Road Associates, LLC, 241 Danbury Road, for an alternative signage program

The Commission agreed there are no conservation related issues with signage and there will be no comment.

B. SDP, CH Danbury Road Associates, LLC and Osman Wilton, LLC, 249 Danbury Road, for an alternative signage program

The Commission agreed there are no conservation related issues with signage and there will be no comment.

Ms. Hobson left the meeting.

VI. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

A. WET#2512(S) SPOSATO – 4 Ivy Lane – proposed additions to residence and new A/C within a regulated area

Mr. Conklin explained the site has standing water due to the high water table in the vicinity. He stated there are some mitigation plantings proposed and he would encourage the use of environmentally friendly lawn care practices. The Commission recommends enhancing the buffer on the north side of property beginning with the house and running to back of lawn area where it meets the stream with a bigger diversity of shrubs, a larger number of shrubs and ground cover, along with removal of invasives. In addition, the Commission stated the two woody debris piles should be removed, and some runoff filtration should be installed such as a Rain Garden to catch storm water from house.

B. WET#2513(S) BALASUBRAMANIAM – Overidge Lane (Map#4 Lot#34-1) – proposed single-family residence and associated activities within a regulated area

Mr. Conklin described this site as a wooded steep hillside which leads to a wetland. He confirmed the larger trees are being protected with the exception of trees being removed within 10 feet of the septic system and in areas where the construction will occur. The Commission recommended evaluating the driveway for a possible permeable surface and invasives should be replaced with natives to enhance the site as a whole.

VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports – Ms. Algon reported walking Allen’s Meadows and reported that the wooded hillside is covered in native flowering plants and is ecologically special with no invasives present. She stated there are some hanging limbs at the site. Mr. Conklin responded that this is under Parks and Recreation and they are typically aware of the issues of storm damage in their parks. He reminded the Commission to use SeeClickFix as this is the best way to track issues around town. Mr. Conklin also confirmed that Chip-Away is being hired to go through our parks to clear the trails in the coming weeks.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Ms. DiLoreto stated she has everything mapped out that she wants to include but the plan is still draft and was not ready to present the information.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon reported that the recent stone wall walk at the Vista Road property was well attended. There was also a birding walk recently that was not well attended most likely due to cold weather. The Sky Watch has been postponed until October. Ms. Algon stated Mr. Lapnow offered to lead a walk at Quarry Head and hopes that this can happen in June. Ms. DiLoreto stated these walks should be added to the Facebook page.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Algon stated the next work day is May 5th from 9am – 11am.

Schenck's Island Plan – Ms. DiLoreto shared the presentation board which depicts play structures and trails under 'Nature Play' that would result in a low impact use of the park. This vision is what the Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee agreed upon and Mr. Conklin advised there is a Request for Qualifications ongoing for the layout of the park.

Stewardship Plan for Easements – Ms. DiLoreto reported that she received the 2017 information from the Land Trust Alliance with their revised standards and practices.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- A. Tree Committee – Ms. Algon stated the Committee celebrated Arbor Day last week with the planting of a Linden Tree at Merwin Meadows in honor of the Tree Steward of the Year, Tina Duncan. Ms. DiLoreto also noted the Community Canopy initiative is beginning and if there is enough interest, she will share more at a later time.
- B. Deer Committee – Nothing new to report.
- C. Planning & Zoning Liaison – Nothing new to report. As there was no Commissioner assigned to cover the P&Z Meetings in May, Mr. Simone agreed to attend the May 14th Meeting and Ms. Algon agreed to attend the May 29th Meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Townwide Clean Up Day Recap – Mr. Conklin confirmed 3,200 lbs. of trash was collected with about 200 volunteers in attendance. Mr. Conklin advised that the town is becoming an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.
- B. Tree Committee Nominee – Peg Koellmer – Mr. Simone MOVED to NOMINATE Peg Koellmer for the Tree Committee, SECONDED by Ms. Algon and CARRIED 4-0-0.
- C. Deer Committee Nominee – Matt Ellenthal – Mr. Simone MOVED to NOMINATE Matt Ellenthal for the Deer Committee, SECONDED by Mr. Chaney and CARRIED 4-0-0.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Special Meeting Minutes 4/4/18
The following revision was requested by Mr. Simone:
Page 1, part IV, second paragraph, line 3: She asked Rep Himes (not Hines)

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as amended, SECONDED by Mr. Chaney and CARRIED 4-0-0.

- XI. **ADJOURN** – Ms. Algon MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:01 p.m., SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 4-0-0.

Next meeting will be June 6, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs