

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

- RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2018 APR 10 P 3:49
BY: *LC*
- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Frank Simone, Jade Hobson, Colleen O'Brien; Jackie Algon
 - II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Deborah McFadden, Board of Selectmen
 - III. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
 - IV. Deborah McFadden - Fracking Waste

Ms. McFadden stated that Wilton's Department of Public Works uses a salt and sand mixture which could include fracking waste to treat roads in Wilton. She indicated the Board of Selectmen met and Ms. Vanderslice wants to wait to see what ruling the state takes on this topic. Ms. McFadden stated she does not want to wait for the State to make their decision and wants to immediately educate the public about fracking. She raised concern that a truck containing fracking waste will be driving down Route 7 and get into an accident, spilling waste into the town's drinking water supply. She would like to get an ordinance in place to outlaw fracking waste from being shipped through the town.

Ms. McFadden stated fracking is only one process in which this waste is generated. All of the processes generate waste from different sources and processes. She confirmed the waste is not just fracking waste. She asked Rep. Hines what is happening at the State level and she reported his response was that this needs to be dealt with at the local level. She proposes that a coalition is formed with relevant and interested parties such as this Board. She suggested that a liaison be determined within this Commission.

Mr. Simone stated he has looked into this topic. He confirmed some towns, like Ridgefield, have already started looking into topic. He indicated Norwalk has not taken on the topic as of yet. Mr. Simone asked where the sand comes from that the Public Works Department uses as he was concerned it could have detrimental materials in it. At some point, he noted this topic should be addressed, but maybe not at this time as stated by Lynne Vanderslice.

Ms. McFadden stated a portion of the budget bill states that if CT DEEP does not act on something within 90 days, including solid waste, wastewater facility, etc., that would fall to an automatic approval. She stated it is scary to think about this type of waste. There

are permitting issues, transportation issues, and storage issues so education is a good step. Mr. Simone stated the draft legislation is put together by Food & Water Watch. Mr. Conklin noted this was modified for interstate commerce.

Of the communities that have addressed it, Ms. McFadden stated some of it is from top down and some are from the bottom up. Currently, she proposes we start from the bottom up. Mr. Conklin looked at a map of towns that have banned fracking waste and where waste is accepted. He noted all waste sites have a sewage treatment plan within their borders and he wondered if there is a connection. He stated the town has full control over what goes on the roads. An ordinance against fracking waste does not need to be in place for the Town to set a policy to only use salt and clean sand. He confirmed the town cannot stop Interstate commerce.

Ms. McFadden stated that she would like to get assistance from this board. Mr. Simone stated that the direction from the First Selectmen was to put this on the back burner. Ms. Algon stated the board should be involved. Ms. DiLoreto stated they should be educated about this topic. Ms. McFadden confirmed nothing is set up yet as she is just now trying to gather likeminded people for the group.

Mr. Conklin asked if the Health Department has been involved as this is a Health related issue. Ms. McFadden agreed that this would be a good idea. Mr. Conklin explained that the Health Department is in charge of wells and the well water issues that are the cornerstone of this topic. Ms. McFadden was hoping to have more information for the next meeting in May. Mr. Conklin asked that she send information to him for distribution to the Commission.

V. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

A. SDP, WILTON GSE, LLC/Accent Signs, 372 Danbury Road, for alternative signage program for additional signage

Mr. Conklin briefly described this referral. The Commission agreed there are no conservation related issues and there will be no comment.

B. SP#443, G&M Investments/Ken Bennett for Goodwill of Western and Northern Connecticut, 17 Danbury Road, for a Goodwill Donation Center

Mr. Conklin briefly described this referral. Ms. Algon raised concern about any changes in the back portion of the property. It was confirmed that all proposed work will take place inside the building. The Commissioners have no comments for this Application.

C. SDP, Visiting Nurse & Hospice (VNH) of Fairfield County, 22 Danbury Road, for renovation of former retail building to be used for administrative offices

Ms. Algon stated she thinks part of the building is coming down. Mr. Conklin described there is a site demolition plan. The commission reviewed the proposed site plan and asked that pervious pavers be utilized when possible and that shade trees be added to the plan.

D. REG#18368, ASML US, Inc., for regulation change to increase site coverage in a DE-10 (Design Enterprise) Zoning District from 40% to 50%

The Commission will discuss this matter at the May 2, 2018 Regular Meeting.

VI. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

- A. WET#2508(S) ASML USA, LLC – 77 Danbury Road** – demolish existing accessory building, relocate existing driveway, construct building addition and associated stormwater management and utilities

Mr. Conklin stated this is a complicated site. He confirmed the Inland Wetland Commission is hiring a third party consultant due to the engineering nature of the project. The 100-year flood zone is present and they are re-routing the driveway right against the river bank which includes a significant amount of disturbance next to the river. He confirmed the building they are proposing is specific to the item they are manufacturing including a special loading dock. Mr. Conklin confirmed there is a planting plan which includes native plants. The commission asked that the applicant work to save native vegetation and protect the riverbank and native soils.

- B. WET#2509(S) SULLIVAN – 66 East Meadow Road** – proposed pool and associated activities and driveway improvements

Mr. Conklin explained where the pool is being proposed. He noted that the area where the existing driveway is steep and the owner wants a less steep driveway. Part of the reconfigured driveway is closer to the wetlands than the existing driveway but part of it is further away. He described the wetlands function and steep slope. Mr. Conklin stated the application could help the function of the system. The area is already disturbed and he does not see a potential negative impact as it is disconnected with the landscape. The commission reviewed the plant list associated with the mitigation as well as a rain garden and offers no comment at this time.

VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Parks Reports** – Mr. Conklin confirmed Ms. Fanzutti has been walking the parks since the last storms to determine what damage took place. There were several trees and branches that were removed immediately because they posed a public safety risk and others that are not a threat will be removed shortly. The three meadows will be mowed within the next month. Ideally, fields should be mowed in March but this has been a damp Spring and the equipment gets stuck. On the other hand, mowing later than April gets in the way of ground nesting species. The Commission thought mowing at the end of November might be the best timing. Ms. DiLoreto asked if the trees that fell around Horseshoe Pond will be removed. Mr. Conklin confirmed these will be addressed at a later time as they are down and not a danger.

Mr. Simone asked what is transpiring with the Millstone Farm Trails. Mr. Conklin advised a walk recently took place. They will remove or move the fencing as soon as the new trail is approved and a fencing company is hired to complete the work.

Mr. Conklin thanked the FCNEMBA and Dave Francefort for doing such a great job at Town Forest with clearing the trails of fallen trees and other recent trail work they completed as volunteers.

- B. Conservation Activity Log Updates**

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Nothing to report.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon stated the Skywatch was postponed due to not being able to mow in the wet soils. She contacted Ambler Farm to see if they would like to host this walk. They declined due to safety concerns. It was agreed that October is a better time for this event.

This month the Commission is hosting a birding walk and the stone wall walk. The Commission discussed having talks videotaped for future reference.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Algon confirmed a letter went out to the Friends of Kent Pond to suggest attending the buffer work which will start for the season on May 5th and occur every Saturday through the summer from 9 – 11am. Ms. O'Brien suggested getting scout groups involved. Ms. DiLoreto suggested having small areas mapped out for each day so it feels like an accomplishment when the section is completed.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

A. Tree Committee – Ms. Algon stated the Committee is getting involved with the community canopy based on a program with Arbor Day and USDA. They offer one or two trees per resident for about \$40 each which provides environmental benefits. There is software to assist residents with choosing the location to plant their new tree called iTree. The Arbor Day Celebration is being held April 27, 2018 at 5:00pm. The Tree Steward for this year is Tina Duncan and a Linden Tree will be planted in her honor on the Town Green to replace a failing Norway Maple.

B. Deer Committee – Nothing new to report.

C. Planning & Zoning Liaison – Nothing new to report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Spring Newsletter Update – Mr. Conklin stated the newsletter will be going to the Graphic Designer shortly for layout.
- B. Townwide Clean Up Day Update – Mr. Conklin advised that Ms. Fanzutti has been preparing for the event. She is getting assistance from Mr. Simone. He confirmed Wilton Kiwanis is donating \$500 for the purchase of gift certificates for raffle prizes. Wilton Hardware is also providing gift certificates for the raffle.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Special Meeting Minutes 3/13/18

The following revision was requested by Ms. DiLoreto:

Page 3 New Business Paragraph 4

Ms. DiLoreto stated that the four cedar trees at the entrance to the footbridge are approaching their

Page 5 first line: more in line with the native ecosystem that exists along the river. Commission agreed planting design needs to be more naturalized and appropriate to the existing setting than the plan developed.

Page 5: E paragraph 2 Ms. D suggested putting something in the newsletter about the availability of downloadable PDFs from the Conservation Commission website for trails in the parks.

Last line in same paragraph- I suggested there was no need to keep the pollinator article to only about in Wilton. It would be good to share that all of the surrounding towns are enthusiastically supporting and starting pollinator awareness or gardens.

Ms. Hobson MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as amended, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- XI. ADJOURN** – Ms. Algon MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:39 p.m., SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be May 2, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs

