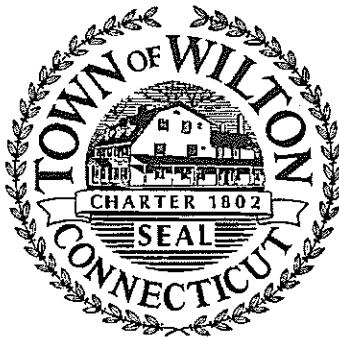


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

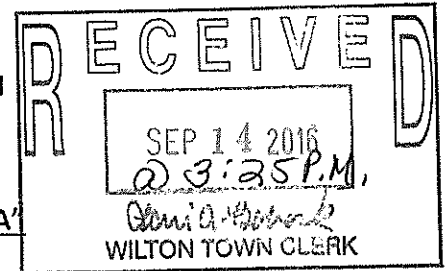
238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY July 6, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"



MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Dan Berg, Chair, Donna Merrill, Jackie Algon, Frank Simone, Colleen O'Brien
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs
- III. ABSENT: Jade Hobson (notified of intended absence) Susan DiLoreto (not notified of intended absence)
- IV. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.
- V. Kent Pond Discussion

Ms. Algon stated that Kent Pond is in poor shape with phragmites which is rampant on the eastern and southern shores crowding out the native plants. She noted that she has met with Anne Hamar who lives on the pond and is discouraged by no nesting swans this year, with three families that came and left for better surroundings. Ms. Algon added that there is a lot of algae or other water plant present so they went to meet with First Selectman, Lynne Vanderslice, to encourage better care of the pond. Ms. Vanderslice told them there is no current budget for this so private funding would be required.

Ms. Algon provided a copy of a letter that she and Ms. Hamar will provide to all surrounding neighbors (attached) to educate them on the issues that cause the degradation of the pond and to gain support to make it healthy again. Ms. Algon and Ms. Hamar hope to start "Friends of Kent Pond" that will carry out an evaluation to get an idea of what is causing the issues.

Mr. Berg stated that he supports these efforts and compared this to the recent Friends of Horseshoe Pond. Ms. Merrill suggested educating residents much like was recently done in Ridgefield where the residents were told of their impact in the ecosystem.

Ms. Algon stated the Keeler Ridge area was a dairy farm years ago and the current pond area was where they kept water for the cows. When Keeler's Ridge was built, there was a pipe installed from the top of the hill, under Ridgefield Road that flows directly to the pond. Mr. Berg stated it seems worth it to figure out what is draining there. Mr. Simone suggested that Ms. Hamar look at the town records to see what was installed when Keeler's Ridge was developed.

VI. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

Mr. Berg stated there are no referrals listed but there is one that may require a combined site walk with Inland Wetlands on Thursday, July 14th. He asked commissioners to look out of the agenda on their emails.

VII. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None

VIII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports –

Quarry Head - Ms. Merrill confirmed the Quarry Head work day was a success and she was able to re-blaze the red trail. The next work day will be September 24, 2016. She noted Lars Cherichetti went in and cleared some trees from the red trail from the bridge and he did a great job.

Ms. Merrill stated Dave Francefort has plans for the portion of the trail that leads to the Harrison Smith Preserve. She also noted there are some more potholes that require re-paving.

Ms. Merrill advised she will be doing another luncheon for Terri Goodwin this summer to thank her for her generous contributions as Ms. Goodwin has offered to donate the funds for the dam replacement. Additionally, a neighbor to the park, Rich Nichol, has offered to weedwack on a regular basis.

Horseshoe Pond – Ms. Merrill stated she wished Ms. DiLoreto was present as she is due applause for spearheading the installation of the irrigation system and plantings at the northern end of the pond. She noted there is another phase of plant installation which will take place in the fall.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Quarry Head Trail Consolidation – Discussed previously.

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Discussed previously.

Park Walks/Talks – Ms. Algon confirmed the next walk is being held on July 10th at 1:00pm at Keeler's Ridge Meadow. The walk is being led by Victor DiMasi, a lepidopterist, who will speak about butterflies. Ms. Algon confirmed Liz Craig checked the meadow recently to make sure butterflies are present for a successful walk.

The next walk will take place on September 11th at Wild Duck which is Ms. Algon's park. There is another bird migration walk being scheduled for October, and November will be the nighttime sky watching walk.

Carry In/Carry Out Initiative – Mr. Berg stated he is getting signage.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. Algon noted the committee is currently working on inventory for the center trees. She also confirmed the Tree Walk led by Kate Throckmorton was well attended and organized by Ms. Hobson who provided cookies and lemonade for attendees.
- ii. Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill confirmed there was no meeting last month due to a lack of quorum. She indicated they have made a decision they will not push to obtain homeowner matches this year as the program has not added much value to the charge of the committee. Ms. Merrill will provide the list of town properties to the commissioners so that a vote can take place at the next meeting on September 7th. Ms. Merrill indicated that Bradley Park and Cherry Lane parks have been removed from the hunt this year due to low harvest numbers during last season.
- iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill stated the Land Trust has gone through some organizational changes recently. She noted that Peter Gaboriault is now the President and she is the Executive Director.

D. Regional Projects

- i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership – Ms. Merrill noted that she would like to schedule the convening of Conservation Commissioners. She confirmed that Mary Ellen Lamay will help to gain interest in the surrounding towns contiguous to Wilton. Ms. Merrill suggested the meeting take place at Woodcock Nature Center as they can hold 60 people in the outdoor pavilion. The commission agreed to have this meeting on October 18th or 19th. Ms. Merrill will send invitations.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Liaison Schedule** – Ms. Larkin noted this agenda item should be tabled until all Commissioners are present.
- B. Park Assignments** – Ms. Larkin noted this agenda item should be tabled until all Commissioners are present.
- C. Set Aside Assignments** – Ms. Larkin noted this agenda item should be tables until all commissioners are present.

X. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Algon offered to take the month of August as there was no assignment noted for the one Inland Wetlands Meeting being held on August 11th.

Mr. Simone confirmed he attended an Inland Wetlands meeting on June 23rd where the ASML parking garage was approved as all issues and concerns were addressed.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

6/1/16 Meeting – Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as amended, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

6/1/16 Site Walk – Mr. Berg MOVED to APPROVE the site walk minutes, SECONDED by Ms. Algon and CARRIED 5-0-0.

XII. ADJOURN – Mr. Simone MOVED to adjourn at 8:11pm, SECONDED by Mr. Berg, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be September 7, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs