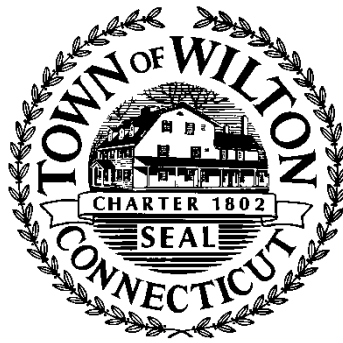


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Jackie Algon, Frank Simone, Jade Hobson, Colleen O'Brien

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director Environmental Affairs; Mike Russnok, Deer Committee Chair

ABSENT: Brice Chaney (not notified of intended absence) Jeff Lapnow (not notified of intended absence)

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. 2019 DEER COMMITTEE HUNT PLAN REVIEW

Mr. Mike Russnok, Chair for the Deer Committee, was present to discuss Deer Committee Hunt Plan. He noted that the state had not released the final harvest tallies from December of last year. He added that currently the state has Wilton at 97 deer harvested. Mr. Russnock opined that we will have approximately 110 deer harvested for the 2018 year. He noted that the numbers are down from the last season, which had 135 deer harvested, but opined that there was no specific reason for the decrease. Mr. Russnock stated that there are currently forty-five (45) hunters and the program has very little turnover. Mr. Russnock noted that no safety incidences had occurred during the past hunting season. Mr. Simone asked if there were any resident complaints. Mr. Russnock explained that there are usually complaints although there were no substantial or unusual complaints for this season. Mr. Conklin noted some complaints over the Vista Road property and explained the issue. Mr. Russnock reviewed the tagging process and the Hunter's for the Hungry program. Mr. Conklin explained that the Town was working with the Wilton Food Pantry for donated deer meat. Mrs. DiLoreto asked if there was information related to deer related accidents in Town. Mr. Russnock explained that the Wilton Police Department does coordinate some information with the Deer Committee though they are not required to report all deer related accidents. Mr. Conklin stated that he had spoken with Town Representatives from the Town of Ridgefield who have identified that their deer numbers and observations are in line with the Town of Wilton's. Mr. Russnock requested a January hunt for the Vista Road Property. He added that some closure dates for smaller

Conservation Commission parks should be removed as an administrative action. Mr. Conklin noted that the Deer Committee had developed a good relationship with the Aspatuck Land Trust which opened up two (2) parcels along Honey Hill Road for hunting. Mr. Russnock noted restrictions set by the Aspatuck Land Trust for hunting on the two (2) parcels.

Ms. Algon MOVED to approve the 2019 Hunt Plan, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 4-0-1. Ms. Hobson ABSTAINED from voting.

III. REFFERRAL REVIEW PROPOSAL AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Conklin proposed a new two (2) tier system for referrals to the Conservation Commission. He noted that some projects may be so minor that holding them up for a month to be reviewed may not be efficient or necessary. Mr. Conklin proposed using a two (2) tier system where he would classify every project referral as either a Tier 1 or a Tier 2 referral. Tier 1 referrals would be minor projects that would be discussed by Mr. Conklin and Mrs. DiLoreto, but that would not require full review by the entire commission. Tier 2 referrals that would be larger projects that are distributed to all commission members for review. Mr. Conklin added that if at any point Mrs. DiLoreto would like to change a Tier 1 project to a Tier 2, she would have the authority to do so and have these projects reviewed by the entire commission. The commission agreed. Mrs. DiLoreto noted that if a project comes back for review before the commission for any reason, it can be reviewed again by the Conservation Commission.

IV. PLANNING & ZONING REFERRALS

- A. **Site Development Plan – Administrative Approval – 53 Danbury Road –**
proposed parking improvements

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project referral. No Comments were noted.

- B. **SP#456 – 333 Hurlbutt Street, Rolling Hills Country Club, Inc.** to allow
administrative approval for one additional paddle tennis court

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project referral. No Comments were noted.

- C. **SP#457 – 10 North Main Street, Motors Group Associates, Limited**
Partnership to allow a vehicle parking and storage area for an existing automotive
sales and service facility

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project referral. No Comments were noted.

- D. **REG#19377 – 200 Danbury Road, LLC** to amend Section 29-2.B.17, Section
29-6.E.6 and Section 29-6.E.12 of the Wilton Zoning Regulations to change the
definition of building height, to allow for an increase in the maximum building
height, and to allow for an increase in the allowable Floor Area Ratio

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project referral. No Comments were noted.

V. INLAND WETLANDS REFERRALS

- A. **WET#2567(S) Bivona- 115 Pine Ridge Road** – “corrective action” to install an exterior subsurface pump and associated boulder riprap swale discharging to a road side ditch on Pine Ridge Road; to clean an existing culvert under the driveway to remove the pavement on the driveway, to widen on both sides and to cover with gravel; to install a free form pool on an existing deck; to relocate a shed; to replace septic tank & pump chamber further away from wetland.

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project and had the following comments:

1. The Conservation Commissions recommends the applicant develop a mitigation planting plan for the areas adjacent to the front yard drainage swale and wetland buffer area that includes native plants and minimizes lawn.
2. The Conservation Commission recommends the applicant consider eliminating the pool proposal in close proximity to the wetland located in the rear yard.

- B. **WET# 2569 (S) YE- 101 Glen Hill Road** - emergency septic system replacement in a regulated area.

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project referral. No Comments were noted.

- C. **WET# 2570 (S) GALLO – 50 Liberty Street** – emergency septic system replacement in a regulated area.

The Conservation Commission reviewed this project referral. No Comments were noted.

Mr. Conklin reviewed the three (3) referrals listed above.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. Parks Reports – Mr. Conklin stated that Mr. Herter has been doing more office work lately as Mrs. Larkin, the staff secretary, has been out on Medical Leave. He did note that Mr. Herter coordinated duck boxes at Cherry Lane Park with a group of Girl Scouts.
- b. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Mrs. DiLoreto noted a park walk at Town Forest for May 19, 2019, entrance at Boulder Brook, at 1 pm. Mr. Conklin noted that a group of Mountain Bikers worked to make some upgrades to Town Forest. He explained that there was a slight confrontation between the volunteers and a Town resident over their work.

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Mrs. DiLoreto noted she was working on a history of Horseshoe Pond.

Kent Pond Management – Mrs. Algon noted observing a small patch of Japanese Knot Weed that she will remove.

Schenck’s Island Plan – Mr. Conklin stated that the second meeting, PowerPoints are available online. He added that approximately thirty-five (35) individuals showed up. Mr. Conklin explained that two (2) alternative plans were presented for each of the two (2) sites, Merwin Meadows and Schenck’s Island. He added that there will be

displays placed in Town Hall, the Wilton Library, and/or Comstock Community Center for the projects, as well as possibly , a display during the Town Meeting. Mr. Conklin explained that the information had been sent to the local news outlets. Mr. Conklin explained his plans for a free field guide library at Schenk's Island.

c. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. TREE COMMITTEE – Mrs. Algon noted that last Thursday was the local Arbor Day Celebration where a tree was planted in honor of Kate Throckmorton. She added that the Tree Committee was still working on their Ten Year Report. Mrs. Algon stated that there have been issues with the Town Christmas Tree as it keeps dying. She noted that First Selectwoman Vanderslice agreed to pay for a new tree. It was discussed whether there should be a live or fake tree; a live tree was requested. There has been some conversation as to what type of tree to use and where to place it. The Conservation Commission discussed the removal of the current tree.
- ii. DEER COMMITTEE – No new information was presented.

d. Planning and Zoning Liaison Report

Mrs. Algon noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved almost all the conditions requested by Ambler Farms. Ten (10) events, with one-hundred and twenty participants, would be allowed per year. The Commission reviewed the conditions of approval. Mrs. Algon commented that the Planning and Zoning Commission does not value the opinion of the Conservation Commission.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Townwide Clean Up Day – Mrs. DiLoreto noted Town Clean Up day would be May 4th at 9 am. Mr. Conklin stated that Mr. Herter had prepared the Town for the event. Mr. Conklin suggested Conservation Commission members arrive at 8:30 am.
- b. POCD Discussion - No new information was presented.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting Minutes 4/3/19

Ms. Hobson MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as written, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 5-0-0.

XI. ADJOURN – Ms. Algon MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:00pm, SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be June 5, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Zen Herter, Environmental Analyst, Environmental Affairs