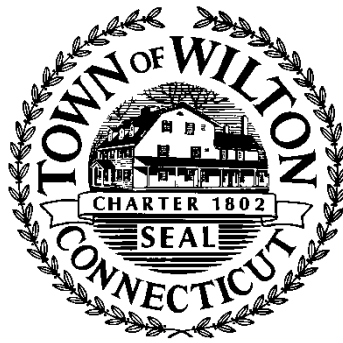


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Kate Throckmorton

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

I. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Mr. Simone **MOVED** to **SCRAMBLE** the Agenda to allow Ms. Throckmorton to present the plan for the Nick Parisot Memorial Trail, **SECONDED** by Ms. Algon and **CARRIED** 4-0-0.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request to Utilize Portions of Town Forest for the Nick Parisot Memorial Trail

Ms. Throckmorton confirmed that the Wilton Land Conservation Trust has donated funds in Nick's name to create a new trail that will connect open spaces in the northern section of town. She provided a map with the proposed trail and kiosk location and confirmed there will be trail markers installed with a unicycle silhouette. Ms. Throckmorton confirmed the Land Trust will pay for the construction and maintenance of this trail.

Ms. Hobson arrived at 7:10 pm.

Ms. Throckmorton advised stones will be added to the storm drain for any additional runoff. Ms. DiLoreto stated she spoke to Mr. Conklin about this request and advised on his comments which include: a concern about the cost and upkeep, safety, citing of a proper trail, lack of parking, and a need for footbridges near wetland areas. Ms. Throckmorton advised that parking is discouraged as there is no safe area for cars. She also added that the Norwalk River Valley Trail is in favor of this new trail and will connect it to their network of trails.

Ms. Algon noted her concern about the maintenance of the trail as promised by the Land Trust as they have not been maintaining other trails as agreed. She asked that there is a written agreement drawn to protect the town's interest and that a formal trail map is provided for final approval. Ms. DiLoreto asked that they stay away from

the creek. Ms. Throckmorton confirmed they will stick close to the stone wall which is a higher elevation.

Ms. Algon MOVED to RECOMMEND approval to the Board of Selectmen for the Nick Parisot Memorial Trail, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 5-0-0.

III. PLANNING & ZONING REFERRALS

A. **SP#458 – Wilton Heights, LLC, 300 Danbury Road, 3, 7, and 11 Whitewood Lane, and for property located at Whitewood Lane (Assessor's Map#58, Lot#37 & Assessor's Map#58, Lot#39)** to allow a drive-up pharmacy

Ms. DiLoreto stated the board already reviewed this application. Ms. Larkin advised that the Commission reviewed the development of the site and this application is for a drive-up pharmacy as required by P&Z Regulations.

Ms. DiLoreto and the Commissioners agreed there is no conservation issue with this request and there will be no comment.

IV. INLAND WETLANDS REFERRALS - None

V. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Parks Reports – Ms. DiLoreto confirmed that Mr. Herter completed a staff report for his ongoing work in the parks which was distributed via email.

b. Conservation Activity Log Updates -

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Ms. DiLoreto raised concern that weeds are at risk to overcome the plantings that were installed. She noted she will send out an email invitation for a working day to weed the area.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. O'Brien reported that only one person attended the recent walk in Town Forest. She advised that the map from the website is outdated and she did get turned around. The Commissioners discussed timing for the Press Release and what news outlets and town groups are contacted to disseminate the walk details. The Commission decided walks should be kept for September through June and that leaders can opt out of the walk if only one person attends for safety reasons. Ms. O'Brien will lead a walk on June 23rd at 1pm at Cherry Lane to highlight the recent work by Mr. Herter. Another birding walk will be scheduled at Allen's Meadows in October for the bird migration.

Kent Pond Management – Mrs. Algon stated she would be scheduling a work day to remove more invasives. She noted the pond does not look great right now but she thinks the carp are eating the target plants. She confirmed she is hoping the State DEEP can complete a survey of the current state of the pond this summer and surmise they can add more carp. A discussion ensued relating to boaters not cleaning their boats when they leave the pond which spreads invasives. The Commissioners asked if signs could be erected to clean boats and equipment that was in the water. Ms. Larkin advised they would need permits for signage and there are limitations to signage.

Ms. Hobson advised that some of her shrubs on her property have a fungus that affects the roots called Armillaria. It was suggested that an article be written about this fungus as it is becoming more common.

Schenck's Island Plan – Nothing new to report.

c. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. TREE COMMITTEE – Ms. Algon confirmed there are three open spots on the Tree Committee with Peg Koellmer's resignation. She stated interviews were held and the Committee would like to nominate Wayne Gura and Lynne VanAcker. The Committee is working on a retrospective report and their goals and objectives.

Ms. O'Brien MOVED to RECOMMEND Mr. Gura and Ms. VanAcker as new members of the Tree Committee to the Board of Selectmen, SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- ii. DEER COMMITTEE – Nothing new to report.

d. Planning and Zoning Liaison Report

Ms. Hobson stated she attended the first meeting in May but there was nothing to report. She noted she was not required to attend the second meeting as there were no conservation related issues.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. POCD Discussion - Ms. DiLoreto asked that each Commissioner review the draft of the Plan Of Conservation and Development and send any notes to Ms. Algon on items that should be revised for the final version within the 90 days provided to the public. She was concerned that the Conservation items were lumped together with "history" and "future land use" and not as a stand-alone item.
- b. Ms. DiLoreto stated she approached Mr. Conklin about the amount of debris in the Norwalk River behind the Village Market. She confirmed Mr. Conklin spoke to the Village Market and they will be more careful when they unwrap deliveries and clean the area more frequently.
- c. Ms. Algon stated she was contacted by Kathy Keating about the missing signage for Quarry Head State Park. Ms. Keating stated her mother just published a book entitled, "Camouflage" and they would like to use some of their proceeds to purchase a new sign. Ms. Larkin stated she read the book and while it was enjoyable, the Commission may want to consider the implications of endorsing a book that includes murders in the park.
- d. Ms. DiLoreto stated she was contacted by a Wilton High School student that is interested in Environmental Science and wants to participate in projects and initiatives. Ms. DiLoreto invited the student to attend the meeting but she had another commitment.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting Minutes 5/1/19

Ms. Hobson asked that the minutes be revised to reflect that she was the P&Z

Liaison for the month of April, not Ms. DiLoreto, and she gave the report about Ambler Farm.

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

- XI. ADJOURN** – Ms. O'Brien MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:39pm, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be July 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs