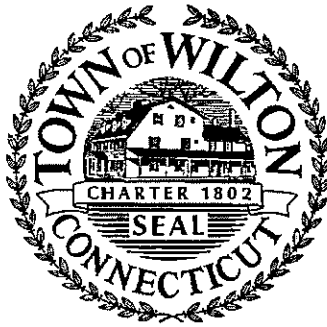


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

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TOWN HALL

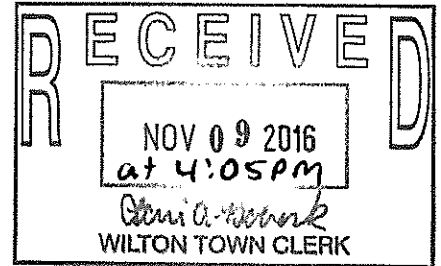
238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY November 2, 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, Jade Hobson, Susan DiLoreto
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs, Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs
- III. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
- IV. Pond & Lake Connection Update for Horseshoe Pond with Jeff Stahl

Jeff Stahl and Fawn Kearns, of The Pond & Lake Connection, were invited to attend the meeting to provide the commissioners and neighbors with an overview of what has occurred at the pond during the last three years of herbicide treatment. They included recommendations for the next phase of treatments and hope to gain approval from the commission for this so that they can keep the pond in a healthy state for decades to come. Anne Deware invited all attendees to the next fund raiser being held at Marly's on November 14th from 5:30pm – 9:30pm.

Mr. Berg MOVED to SUPPORT the active management of Horseshoe Pond with herbicide treatments with periodic reporting as needed, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 7-0-0.

- V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None
- VI. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None
- VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports –

Bradley Park – Ms. DiLoreto reported that someone is cutting plants back to a 5 ft. length and asked if some guidelines could be posted on the kiosk. Mr. Conklin stated he is not certain who is cutting but confirmed that it would not be the Scout that Ms. DiLoreto expected as his work on the boardwalk has been completed. Ms. DiLoreto noted the blue trail sign was down and she was planning to put it back up, although it is in disrepair.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Quarry Head Trail Consolidation – Ms. Merrill reported that the trail building event was a success in September. She stated her term is ending on the Commission but she is looking forward to collaborating with the Town from the Wilton Land Trust where she holds the Executive Director title. She confirmed the signage is not done yet but she has found an interested volunteer. Ms. Merrill also confirmed she would introduce the new champion to Terri Goodwin to allow for a relationship to ensue. Ms. Algon confirmed she can take over this park as it is close to her home.

Park Walks – Ms. Algon confirmed there is a walk scheduled for this Sunday, November 6th from 6:30 – 8:30pm for a sky watch with Bob Lambert from the John J. McCarthy Observatory in New Milford at Slaughter Field which is at the corner of Nod Hill Road and Pipers Hill Road. There will be two large telescopes available for viewing and she is hoping the fire department will allow a bonfire. Mr. Conklin advised that an area will need to remain clear for the fire truck to be able to douse the fire at the end of the event. Ms. Algon noted that November 20th is the backup date if cloud cover is an issue. The call will be made on Saturday evening and she will let any people that registered know if they need to postpone.

Carry In/Carry Out Initiative – Nothing new to report.

Schenck's Island/Merwin Meadows Committee – This item was tabled until later in the meeting.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. **Tree Committee** – Ms. Algon reported that the Tree Committee continues to tag trees in the center. She also noted that First Selectman Vanderslice asked Suzanne Knutson to develop a small garden on the town land between CVS and across from the post office. There were also two oak trees that the Garden Club wanted to relocate on the property for better shading but the Tree Committee would not agree to this as the oaks are healthy at this time. Any future planting in Wilton Center will involve more input to avoid issues in the future.
- ii. **Deer Committee** – Ms. Merrill stated the hunting season is underway and the harvest numbers are in par with where the town was last year at this time.
- iii. **Land Trust** – Ms. Merrill stated the Land Trust is going through internal changes. They are working on getting their membership information in the mail and she stated all are encouraged to join.

D. Regional Projects

- i. **Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership** – Ms. Merrill stated this group is more focused on the Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) project with Mary

Ellen Lemay taking over her old position. The convening of Conservation Commissioners is most likely taking place in February.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Schenck's Island/Merwin Meadow Committee Plan** – Mr. Conklin confirmed he met with Lynne Vanderslice to go over the draft and she wants to have the Schenck's Island and Merwin Meadows committee combined into one group as she wants to address these properties as a whole and not piecemeal. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission has already voted to approve the drafted charge. He added there are a few points that are being reviewed by town counsel prior to finalizing.

Mr. Simone made a MOTION to APPROVE the draft charge, SECONDED by Mr. Berg and CARRIED 7-0-0.

- B. **Household HazWaste Collection Day Recap** – Mr. Conklin reported 336 cars came through the event and 20% of these were from out of town, but included in our collection. Mr. Conklin reported that there were some issues with the event such as the contractor's truck was late, only three of the workers spoke English, they had no protective equipment and no chemist on site. He indicated he will be calling a meeting with the coordinators to discuss these shortfalls and potentially put the contract out to bid. The commission agreed that the students that volunteered were great and received 10 points on their grade to participate.

- C. **Fall Newsletter** – Mr. Conklin stated that the commissioners should be thinking about articles for the newsletter. Ideally, the articles should be completed and sent to Ms. Larkin by November 18th so that it can be designed and mailed out in the first full week of December. Ms. DiLoreto stated she can write a Horseshoe Pond update mentioning the efforts that are starting at Kent Pond. The life cycle of a pond was another idea for an article. Ms. O'Brien stated she would like to write an article highlighting the bird walk recently held at Allen's Meadows. Mr. Berg suggested an article re-visiting the items that can be taken to HazWaste as these questions are raised each year. Ms. Merrill suggested adding legal updates as a few sentences on the newsletter. For example, there is new legislation that prohibits some pesticides for bee health that we can include for educational purposes. Ms. Algon noted there was also some tree legislation recently approved as well. She confirmed that Kate Throckmorton, Chair of the Tree Committee, is writing an article for the Wilton Bulletin that will focus on the demise of the ash trees. Mr. Conklin stated he recently attended a forestry conference and the topic of natives changing due to environmental changes was most notable.

Mr. Simone left the meeting.

IX. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Algon confirmed she attended an Inland Wetlands meeting in October where the Brubeck Trust subdivision application was being discussed but was continued. She confirmed the Inland Wetlands Commission was concerned about the proximity of the driveway close to the Comstock Brook. She also noted the Cannon Road subdivision was withdrawn.

Ms. DiLoreto is the November liaison.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

10/5/16 Meeting – Ms. Algon MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes, SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 6-0-0.

XII. ADJOURN – Ms. Algon MOVED to adjourn at 9:42pm, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien, and CARRIED 6-0-0.

Next meeting will be December 7, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs