

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY January 3, 2018 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

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MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Frank Simone, Jade Hobson, Jeff Lapnow, Brice Chaney
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Vicki Mavis, Resident; Sarah Curtis, Resident; Karen Silverberg, Resident
- III. ABSENT: Colleen O'Brien, Jackie Algon (notified of intended absences)
- IV. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- V. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

A. Public Hearing re: Temporary Health Care Structures for the Purpose of Discussing and Rendering a Decision on Whether to Opt Out of Statutory Enabling Provisions – established by way of Public Act 17-155 and codified in Section 8-2(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes as it pertains to temporary health care structures

Mr. Conklin advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission is determining if this new legislation should be allowed in Wilton.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

B. SP#441, ASML US, Inc., 77 Danbury Road – to allow construction of a 45,345 sq. ft. building addition and for an additional level to a parking garage previously approved by the Commission but not yet built

Mr. Conklin explained the applicant is asking to add another level to an already approved parking garage and an addition over existing asphalt.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

C. SUB#919, LTWJ, LLC – Cannon Road (Map#21 Lot#13) – for an 8-lot subdivision

Mr. Conklin advised the Wetlands Commission has approved the subdivision and the Conservation Commission reviewed the application at that time. Mr. Conklin provided the comments that were submitted to the Wetlands Commission.

The Commission agreed that all comments and recommendations provided for Inland

Wetlands will be re-submitted to Planning and Zoning.

VI. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS – None

VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Schedule Special Meeting for POCD Review & Questionnaire** – Mr. Conklin stated an email was sent to all members from Milone and MacBroom, the company hired to complete the upcoming Plan of Conservation and Development. The email included a questionnaire that should be completed by the Commissioners and returned to them by January 17, 2018. The Commission decided that each Commissioner should respond to the questions and a special meeting will be held to combine all of the comments into one concise document. The Commission decided to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 2:30pm for this purpose.

The Commission discussed the need for one Commissioner to be the liaison for the 9 upcoming POCD Meetings. Although Ms. Algon was not in attendance, Ms. Diloreto stated she offered to take on this role.

- B. Parks Reports** – Ms. Diloreto confirmed that everyone has access to SeeClickFix and understands how to use the application. Mr. Conklin stated that everyone should be walking their parks at least once per month and any issues can be reported via SeeClickFix or by the Park Evaluation Form we have used in the past.

Mr. Conklin confirmed an arborist was hired to go through some of the parks that needed tree work so all trails should now be open. He noted the Cherry Lane Park parking area is scheduled to be regravelled. He also reported that Ms. Fanzutti is coming up with a list of possible improvements to town parks so that the department can be proactive rather than reactive which can be a cost savings to the town.

C. Conservation Activity Log Updates

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

Park Walks & Talks – Nothing new to report.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Hobson asked that she be added as a secondary for Kent Pond Management.

The Commission discussed adding Schencks Island Management Plan and Stewardship of Easements as two new topics for the Activity Log. Mr. Chaney expressed interest in being the champion of the Schencks Island Management Plan. Ms. Diloreto stated she has experience in the stewardship of easements so she would like to be assigned this item.

The Commission discussed that a Request for Proposal (RFP) is being completed for a long-term plan for Merwin Meadows and Schencks Island so that the parks are more user-friendly. Mr. Conklin noted the commission is not always the enforcer of the easement but it is helpful to maintain good working relationships with the land owners. He also stated

the Wilton Land Trust is looking to obtain more properties and the town is not currently in the position to purchase any easements. Mr. Simone asked that the town address the relationship with the Wilton Land Trust. He added that he does not see them as equal partners as they do not pay anything to purchase these easements.

A discussion ensued about the need for resident access to the Seeley Road property. Mr. Conklin stated if there is no need or request from residents to build this, it will not be built. Mr. Chaney asked if there was a way to prioritize the maintenance dollars from other projects to create excess to put towards Seeley Road. Mr. Conklin explained how the department budget works and that every dollar for the department budget is needed for existing projects. Mr. Simone suggested asking for the Land Trust to provide man hours if they are not paying for easements.

D. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- A. Tree Committee – Nothing new to report.
- B. Deer Committee – Nothing new to report.
- C. Planning & Zoning Liaison – Ms. Diloreto attended the December 11, 2017 POCD Meeting where a phone survey was reviewed. Planning & Zoning rendered the survey inadequate and operating procedures are being revisited. The next POCD Meeting is being held January 24, 2018 at 7pm.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2018 Elections** – Ms. Diloreto confirmed she will be travelling for the months of February and March and will not be present for those meetings.

Mr. Simone MOVED to NOMINATE Ms. Diloreto as Chairperson, SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Ms. Diloreto MOVED to NOMINATE Mr. Chaney as Vice Chairperson, SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- B. Discussion of Conservation Commission Roles & Responsibilities Part I** – Mr. Conklin stated working with the Board of Selectmen on the Millstone Property Holdings matter was a great example of the important role the Commission plays in advising the Board. A main role of the Commission is to educate the public on Conservation issues and initiatives.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. 11/28/17 Special Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Hobson MOVED to APPROVE the Special Meeting Minutes, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- B. 12/6/17 Regular Meeting Minutes** - The following revisions were requested:

- 1. Page 2, paragraph that begins: "Mr Simone stated he and Mr. Conklin walked the property", line 2: "disappointed in the owner proposed new trails". Add/insert underlined words.

2. First paragraph last line: "and she thinks the version before the Commission (revised after discussions with Mike Conklin and Lynne Vanderslice and Pete Gelderman) of the restriction is less ambiguous. It does not address the trail system portions of the amendment since Mike and Frank are to share their perspective from the walk they completed earlier in the day."

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the 12/6/17 Meeting Minutes as amended, SECONDED by Mr. Chaney and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- C. 12/16/17 for Special Pre-Meeting, Special Site Walk, and Special Post Walk Meeting – Ms. Hobson MOVED to APPROVE all Special Meeting Minutes, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- XI. **ADJOURN** – Mr. Chaney MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:05 pm, SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be February 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs