

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY December 3, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Dan Berg (Chair), Donna Merrill, Susan DiLoreto, Frank Simone, Jackie Algon
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst; Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs
- III. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Berg called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- IV. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

- A. **WET#2277(S) DNA GROUP, LLC – 19 Lee Allen Lane** – raze existing dwelling and construct new residence

Mr. Conklin explained that the application consists of removing an existing ranch house on the property and rebuilding a larger house with a large courtyard, a pool, and stormwater infiltrators.

Mr. Conklin explained the location of the wetland area in relation to the proposed activity. He stated the wetland commission will be examining the project to determine if there will be any direct impacts from the proposed project on the wetland area. He explained the wetland is likely groundwater fed. He went further to say that according to the soil scientist there is a perched water table that created the wetland on the sloped area because of the presence of compact glacial till.

The commission decided the proposal did not have any conservation impacts so no comments would be necessary.

- B. **WET#2291(S) STEPHENSON – 109 Highfield Road** – installation of pool, patio, and a B100a within an upland review area

Mr. Conklin stated that this property consists of an existing home on 3 acres of property. The owners are proposing to remove the current deck and replace it with a pool and patio which requires a B100a septic location. Mr. Conklin confirmed the wetlands mainly consist of a pricker bush swamp. He also indicated that the current soils report was different from the soils report that was filed when the house was first built in the 1980s. This may force the Wetlands Commission to request the applicant to pay for an independent Soil Scientist to verify the current site conditions.

Mr. Conklin confirmed that the proposed activities are within a currently lawned area and displayed the planting plan for review. Mr. Conklin stated that he attempted to get soil samples with his auger, but he could not get it deep enough because of stones and fill material. He explained the soils in the area in question may have been mixed up and are now very compacted. This condition may cause the soil to function differently than the pre-development conditions and the hydrology of the area may also be somewhat different due to site grading. Mr. Conklin explained that the Wetland Commission will ultimately determine if there is a chance for impacts to the wetland but the proposed planting buffer and addition of rain gardens will minimize the risk for impacts.

The commission decided the proposal did not have any conservation impacts so no comments would be necessary.

V. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports – Mr. Conklin confirmed he has not visited parks in the last month due to hunting activities. He was able to install the parking sign for Quarry Head and noted that he is working on a GIS Map of the driveway for this park.

Mr. Berg confirmed that he led about 38 people on the Town Forest Walk which is the largest turnout we have ever had. Ms. Merrill stated that it was a bit treacherous on the trail as the leaves were covering the ground which made it difficult to know where to step safely. Ms. Algon stated that the Garden Club is considering the next walk in January or February to include snowshoeing. The commission decided the best parks for this are Millstone Farm and the Black Farm. Ms. Algon will do some research on purchasing and/or renting snowshoes but explained the commission will not be providing snowshoes or skis for the walk.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Quarry Head Trail Consolidation - Ms. Merrill indicated that GIS maps are being generated and a meeting will be scheduled with Dave Francefort shortly to discuss the Quarry Head trail consolidation project.

Horseshoe Pond Long Term Management Plan - Ms. Merrill stated that she is considering applying for a grant with the US Fish & Wildlife Service as Horseshoe Pond is a center piece for the community. Mr. Conklin stated that any grants would need to go through the Board of Selectman so a very concise plan of what is being requested would be required for this to be considered. Mr. Conklin stated that a municipality may not be eligible for the USFWS grant.

Facebook Page - Mr. Berg stated that the Facebook page is going well and if anyone has anything they would like to post, to send it his way.

Invasives Workshop - Ms. Algon confirmed that the Conservation Commission of the Wilton Garden Club is looking to have the Invasives Workshop at the end of March on a Thursday evening in the Brubeck Room from 7 pm – 9 pm.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. DiLoreto confirmed that the committee is tagging significant trees in town. Ms. Algon confirmed Paula Byrdy started a list of significant trees some years ago and she will check with her for any documentation she can share.

Mr. Conklin stated he is working with Ms. Throckmorton to complete the Wilton Center Map showing all trees and benches from the donation program.

Mr. Conklin described the Arboretum Trail that he created years ago with Lars Cherichetti and Nancy Faesy. A discussion ensued relating to marking trees for education vs. maintenance. The commission thought both should be utilized for the donated trees. Ms. Algon stated she may have access to an engraving machine for this purpose.

- ii. Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill confirmed the hunt is ongoing. She confirmed the hunters are reporting low numbers which she said is likely weather related.
- iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill stated that the accessway at the Keiser Property was approved by the Board of Selectmen.

D. Regional Projects

- i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership – Ms. Merrill indicated that the grant work is being completed and they are holding training sessions.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2015 Meeting Schedule – The commissioners received the meeting schedule for 2015 whereas the meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, as in years past, with the exception of August when there is no meeting.

Mr. Berg MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Schedule as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. Algon, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Elections – Mr. Simone MOVED to nominate Mr. Berg to continue with his Chairman duties, SECONDED by Ms. DiLoreto and CARRIED 5-0-0. Mr. Simone MOVED to nominate Ms. Merrill to continue with her Secretary duties, SECONDED by Ms. DiLoreto and CARRIED 5-0-0.

IX. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. DiLoreto confirmed she attended a Wetlands Meeting but there is nothing to report. Ms. Merrill is the liaison for December.

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 11/5/14

Ms. Algon MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Mr.

Simone, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

- XI. ADJOURN** – Mr. Berg MOVED to adjourn at 8:40pm, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be January 7, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs