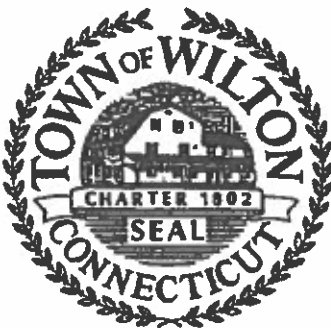


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TUESDAY MARCH 13, 2018 – 7:30 P.M.

COMSTOCK COMMUNITY CENTER – ROOM 18

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2018 MAR 16 A 10:58
BY: LK

- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Frank Simone, Jade Hobson, Jeff Lapnow, Brice Chaney, Colleen O'Brien; Jackie Algon
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs; Jenn Fanzutti, Environmental Analyst
- III. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- IV. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS
 - A. REG#18367, Kevin O'Brien, for an amendment to the Zoning Regulations of Section 29-6.A.3.e, 29-6.B.3.u and 29-6.C.4.j to permit a drive-in pharmacy

Mr. Conklin read the regulation change request to the members. Mr. Lapnow advised that he has worked with Mr. O'Brien in the past but this will not affect his decision; he did not recuse himself. The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

- V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS – None
- VI. Cannon Road Driveway Erosion Issue Clarification from Staff – Mr. Conklin stated there was a recent Conservation Commission Special meeting where the POCD surveys from Milone and MacBroom were being discussed. He reminded the Commissioners that a resident, Sarah Curtis, had a concern about two properties recently developed on Cannon Road in relation to soil and erosion issues. Mr. Conklin prepared a memo and wanted to advise the commission on what transpired with these properties.

Mr. Conklin advised the property was approved for a subdivision to create 153 and 159 Cannon Road with a common driveway. During construction of 153, the rear portion of the driveway was installed without the stormwater management system and left unmaintained. The two lots were left unoccupied for some time and the eventual owners agreed to construct their own driveways. This has allowed the unpermitted driveway between the two to be removed and reseeded which has resulted in no further wash out. Both sites are fully remedied and erosion will no longer be an issue. Mr. Conklin expressed the opinion of the First Selectwoman in that she feels that Ms. Curtis' statement was inaccurate that the town employees have a "not my job" mentality as stated in the meeting minutes.

VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports – Nothing new to report.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

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

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon stated there are three walks scheduled in April.

The first walk is scheduled for April 8th at 7:30pm. It is a skywalk at Slaughter Field much like last year when about 200 people attended. The Commission agreed that a bon fire will be needed again so the Fire Department will be contacted for assistance. It was also noted that the Commission ask the Land Trust to mow the field prior to the event. As in the past, there will be a table with refreshments. In the event this needs to be cancelled due to weather, the rain date is April 15th at 7:30pm.

The next walk is scheduled for April 15th at 1pm with Greg Waters at the Vista Property for a stone wall educational walk.

The third walk was being set for April 28th at Allen's Meadows but this conflicts with the Town Wide Cleanup Event. This walk will scheduled for April 29th at 8:30am. Ms. Algon will check with Parks & Rec to make sure sports games are not being played at that time.

Ms. DiLoreto stated the next walk can be for May at Quarry Head. Mr. Lapnow stated he could lead this walk on May 6th at 1pm. Ms. DiLoreto noted that any Commissioner can take over this initiative or help Ms. Algon by scheduling walks. Ms. O'Brien offered to help with scheduling.

Kent Pond Management – Nothing new to report. Ms. Algon stated the Friends are still working in the pond buffer removing invasives. She confirmed no new plants need to be installed as there are good native plantings already present. Ms. Algon will let the Commission know when the work days are scheduled if anyone would like to assist the Friends of Kent Pond.

Mr. Simone asked what was happening with fracking in Wilton. Mr. Conklin explained that Deborah McFadden was scheduled to speak at the regular meeting last week but could not make this Special Meeting. As the item is not on the agenda, it cannot be added to the Special Meeting. Mr. Conklin described the NRWA will champion the project and once the presentation is prepared, the commission will be advised. He also confirmed Deborah McFadden will attend the April meeting and the item will be on the agenda. Ms. Fanzutti explained that the State DEEP is looking into fracking regulations statewide.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- A. Tree Committee – Ms. Algon stated the Committee is meeting the following day. They are hoping to take on a program offered by Arbor Day and US Forest Service to provide free trees to residents. They are hoping to gain funding for this initiative. Ms. DiLoreto noted there are mechanisms to track the cost savings and energy savings for the installed trees.
- B. Deer Committee – Mr. Conklin stated they just met and went over the post hunt surveys. The Committee will meet six times per year, instead of monthly. The homeowner match was not as successful for this season and this service may be removed for next year.
- C. Planning & Zoning Liaison – Nothing to report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Schenck's Island Park Work – Mr. Conklin advised that two years ago, he started a plan to improve Schenck's Island including the new chess park. He stated he wanted to open windows to the park from River Road in conjunction with this project and learned that not everything could get done in one year. He would now like to remove invasives and replant the area of the pathway by the footbridge. The original plan by Suzanne Knutson called for several variegated dogwood and pussywillow trees. The original plan was to scrape out the invasives and come up with a plan to include more plants to make it more aesthetically pleasing for this high-traffic area. It was determined that a pollinator garden would be appropriate with cherry trees that butterflies rely upon.

Mr. Conklin noted there is a drain just north of the footbridge and we need to make sure the pitch is slightly away from the River. He confirmed this will not create a rain garden as there will be existing soil there, but slightly graded so there is no discharge to the river. He described five trees are slated for removal; four are cedar trees and the fifth is a cottonwood. Ms. Algon stated the Cottonwood is a host plant. Mr. Conklin wishes to make a sunny entrance to the walkway and the Cottonwood shades a large portion of the flower area. He wants to have a flat area for garbage cans and an area for a small kiosk which would be combined signage with NRV.

Mr. Conklin stated the area of the Cottonwood is steep so they are proposing to place rough woodchips in this area as plantings would not be able to be maintained easily. These chips will deter invasives from appearing. The plantings are going to be in a circular shape and mirror each other.

Mr. Conklin confirmed Ms. Fanzutti and the Tree Warden, Lars Cherichetti, marked the trees to be removed as required by law. Mr. Cherichetti noted he was against removing five healthy trees. Ms. DiLoreto stated the trees are approaching their end of life and one recently snapped in a storm. There is a willow present which takes a lot of water and it is right on the bank of the river and will not be removed. Ms. DiLoreto asked if there was a way to save the Cottonwood tree. It was determined that the Tree Committee should have a say in the Cottonwood tree.

Mr. Conklin stated Ms. Knutson incorporated butterfly boxes in the planting plan. To expedite and re-use these trees, the cedars being removed can be cut into posts for these boxes as well as a mason-bee box. Ms. Algon advised mason bee boxes may not be a good idea as they need to be monitored closely and cleaned yearly. The Commission agreed that some of the proposed plantings can be swapped out to be

more in line with what would be native in this ecosystem.

Mr. Lapnow MOVED to APPROVE the removal of the four cedar trees along River Road, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 7-0-0.

Ms. DiLoreto MOVED to RE-VISIT the removal of the Cottonwood Tree after the Tree Committee has had the opportunity to comment, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 7-0-0.

- B. Townwide Clean Up Day – Ms. Fanzutti proposed April 28th for the event which may be a warmer day as it is later in the month than typical. She noted there is already interest in volunteering. She also confirmed the schools and scout groups are involved.

Ms. Algon noted that there was an idea for a initiative for litter awareness from a group organized by the Economic Development Commission interested in Wilton Center. The Garden Club decided that they did not want to participate but she would write an article for the newspaper. The Commission supports putting their names on the Letter to the Editor that Ms. Algon wrote about litter.

- C. Go Green Zero Waste Faire Participation – Ms. DiLoreto stated Ms. Gillespie asked if the Conservation Commission would like to participate in the event. The Commission agreed there is not enough time to prepare and will not participate this year.
- D. POCD – Publicize process and engage the public – Ms. Algon stated that there is a meeting on Thursday regarding transportation and all are invited to attend. The Commission discussed getting more detail on the conservation items from the last POCD to be able to provide comments. Mr. Conklin suggested having Special Meetings one hour prior to the Regular Meeting to discuss the important items prior to each POCD Meeting. The Conservation Meeting will take place on June 21, 2018.
- E. Spring Newsletter – Mr. Conklin noted that he and Ms. Fanzutti are writing newsletter articles. Ms. Fanzutti will provide the Household HazWaste dates for all towns under the same contract.

Ms. DiLoreto suggested putting something in the newsletter about our parks and trails. She also asked that we place something on the website about what transpired with Millstone Farm. She stated the Deer Hunt results should be an article. Mr. Simone stated there can be an article about the work at Schenck's Island. Ms. Algon asked that the Ridgefield Pollinator pathway be included as an article. Ms. DiLoreto suggested we keep the information in the newsletter about Wilton. The Commission discussed adding information and resources to the Conservation website.

Mr. Conklin stated he would keep an area of the Newsletter aside for an article about emergency management procedures as requested by the First Selectwoman so residents can be reminded of important phone numbers in the event of a major storm. The article will provide information on SeeClickFix.

- F. Millstone Farm Conservation Easement Ammendment – Mr. Conklin advised the Board of Selectman approved the agreement with Millstone Farm except for the location of the trail. Mr. Conklin will be part of a group including the Wilton Land Conservation Trust that will lay out where the trails will be on this property. It will be referred back to the Board of Selectman for final approval. Mr. Conklin noted all

other facets of the Application have been approved.

- G. Horseshoe Pond Update on NRV Trail – Mr. Conklin stated he did not have a final plan approved by the First Selectmen.
- H. Discussion of Conservation Commission Roles & Responsibilities Part I – Mr. Conklin reminded the commission that the Town Code was emailed to all members. He reviewed the main roles of the board. The members agreed that they are fulfilling the requirements of their roles.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes 1/3/18 and Special Meeting Minutes 1/9/18

The following revision was requested by Mr. Simeone for the 1/9/18 Minutes: Page 2, Question 4 Response, add "motor vehicle" to "idling".

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as amended, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 7-0-0.

- XI. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Next meeting will be April 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conservation Commission

FROM: Department of Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 6, 2018

RE: **153 & 159 Cannon Road**

In 2004 a 2 lot subdivision of 153 and 159 Cannon Road was granted. The drawings presented for the two homes set to be built showed a common driveway between the front and back lot. The front lot- 153 Cannon Road was brought in for approval and built first. During the construction phase of 153 Cannon Road the rear portion of the driveway leading to 159 Cannon Road was created prior to land use approval of the project and without any installation of a storm water management system. Once completed, the front lot remained vacant for several years and was not properly maintained.

Since the initial construction of 153 Cannon Road both properties have been purchased and 159 Cannon Road has been developed. The two lots no longer share a driveway and the unpermitted driveway between the two properties has been removed and the soils have been seeded. The new driveway has a full stormwater management plan to prevent any further washout from getting into the road. The erosion issue that occurred on these two lots has been fully remediated and is not expected to be a continuing issue.