

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday January 9, 2018 – 2:30 P.M.**

**TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
TOWN OF WILTON  
2018 JAN 12 P 2:09  
BY: Q7

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Frank Simone, Jade Hobson, Jeff Lapnow, Colleen O'Brien, Jackie Algon
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Sarah Curtis, Resident; Vicki Mavis, Resident; Stephanie Kim, Wilton Villager
- III. ABSENT: Brice Chaney (notified of intended absence)
- IV. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.
- V. REVIEW AND DISCUSS QUESTIONNAIRE FROM MILONE & MACBROOM FOR PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD)

The Commissioners came to the meeting with their own notes and thoughts on the questionnaire that was requested to be completed by Milone & MacBroom, the firm hired to complete the new POCD for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Diloreto wrote the thoughts of the commissioners on a large easel pad as Commissioners shared their responses.

Question #1 – Generally, and in brief, what are the three to five most important conservation issues facing Wilton from the Commission's specific perspective, area of expertise and or governance?

The Commissioners noted the following: protection of natural resources, maintenance of wildlife corridors, connectivity to provide habitat and food while ensuring diversity of wildlife, disallowing fragmentation, protection of water purity and associated riparian buffers, education, stewardship, balancing protected space with development to retain the rural character of the town, preserve factors that contribute to the rural character, monitoring and maintenance of easements and conservation restrictions, retain low density pattern of housing to address current needs, educate individual lot owners to balance lot decisions and the greater impact, balancing economic development, protection issues of things like scenic roads, Emerald Ash Borer education, recognize backyard accomplishments, prevent fracking, and protect stone walls.

Question #2 - Review the current POCD and identify action items and strategies that align with the mission of the Commission.

The Commissioners noted the following: power lines being requested underground and expansion of greenways with stewardship in place. In addition, Ms. Diloreto stated that

all strategies from the current 2010 version are all still relevant. Those strategies include: preserving and conserving important natural resources, protect the quality and quantity of surface waters and aquifers, reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, protect habitat, protect and preserve trees, and reduce Wilton's energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Question #3 – What strategies from the current POCD has the Commission implemented over the past decade? What has the Commission implemented in support of a goal identified by the current POCD? Are there any action items and strategies identified in the current POCD that were not implemented?

The Commissioners brainstormed the accomplished items that are in the current POCD as: maintain and preserve park trails, manage the annual town-wide clean up day, hold annual hazardous waste collection event, examined properties and made comments for referrals to the Inland Wetland and Planning and Zoning Commissions, as well as the Board of Selectmen. The Commissioners agreed that the following items were implemented in the past 10 years which were not included in the POCD: Kent Pond and Horseshoe Pond management, carry in/carry out initiative, corrections to the Quarry Head trails, participation in the Deer and Tree Committees, clearing invasives, walks and talks program, Ambler Farm, Norwalk River Valley Trail, and working with Trout Unlimited for river habitat and water purity restoration. The items that the Commission decided were not implemented are: investigating suitability for a land acquisition fund, manage nuisance species, maintain and improve a strong relationship with the Wilton Land Conservation Trust and the Department of Public Works, greenway expansion and new opportunities for greenways.

Question #4 – What are the three highest priority initiatives the Commission is currently pursuing, or think that should be pursued that would be relevant for the next ten years?

The Commissioners stated: develop relationships with landowners, develop a shared vision with Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions, collaborate with other Conservation Commissions in the area, define roles and responsibilities for open space and Conservation restrictions, recycling and waste management such as plastic bags, more research relating to pesticides and herbicides, lighting issues affecting bird migration, bringing environmental issues to the Board of Selectmen for attention, idling, proactive involvement in other departments and town issues and objectives, protect drinking water, groundwater issues and runoff, improve stewardship and cultural resources, make things more user-friendly such as the website, create a natural diversity database, connect more people to open space, develop policy on land owner relationships, educate about natural resources and low impact development.

Ms. Mavis stated that drainage is something she thinks this Commission should focus on for the next POCD.

Ms. Curtis stated she has been trying to get a drainage issue on Cannon Road rectified for six years. She stated her requests to the town hall have gone nowhere and the erosion and accidents that take place will continue unless this is addressed. She commented that town departments have a "not our job" mentality.

The Commission agreed their priorities are open space, creating ordinances, proactive involvement with Planning and Zoning, and education and outreach.

Ms. Algon was tasked with putting the information shared at the meeting onto the Milone and MacBroom questionnaire for submission.

XI. **ADJOURN** – Mr. Simone MOVED to ADJOURN at 4:00 pm, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 6-0-0.

Next meeting will be February 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs