

**TOWN OF WILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
CANDIDATE SUBMISSION BY A POLITICAL PARTY**

Please fill out the following for each candidate being endorsed for a Board or Commission appointment. This application plus additional materials should be emailed to Jackie Rochester in the First Selectman's Office. Please note each candidate must also complete a Candidate Application

Board or Commission: Inland Wetlands Commission

Candidate: Penelope Koechi

Number of applicants interviewed for the position: 2

Reasons for recommending this candidate:

Penelope has a deep and loving knowledge of Wilton and the back trails that most people no longer see. She has ridden across streams and low land areas of the town and understands the interplay between water and soil because of that experience. Her father was a sedimentation and erosion inspector for the Town of Westport and she often accompanied him in his later years. Ms. Koechi is a writer and researcher and knows how to seek and absorb knowledge. She wishes to bring her skills and knowledge to serve Wilton and she is an excellent candidate for this Commission.

The Democratic Nominating Committee strongly recommends Penelope Koechi as a member of the Inlands Water Commission.

**TOWN OF WILTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
CANDIDATE APPLICATION**

All candidates who wish to be considered for appointment to a non elected Board or Commission or appointed to a vacancy on an elected Board filled by the BOS must complete this application. Where appropriate, candidates may choose to reference an attached resume, containing the required information.

Board or Commission: **Inland Wetlands**

Candidate: **Penelope Koechl**

Contact information: **917-612-4821, penkoe@gmail.com**

Political Affiliation: **Democrat**

Addresses for the last 10 years: **94 Graenest Ridge Rd., Wilton**

Employment history for the last 10 or more years: **see resume**

Post high school degrees and certifications: **see resume**

Wilton town or community volunteer positions for the last 10 or more years: **see resume**

Please attach a statement including, at a minimum why you are seeking the appointment and your qualifications for the appointment.

Please submit this application and, if applicable, your petition to the First Selectman's office. Once all applications are received, interviews will be scheduled.

Penelope Koechl

Inland Wetlands Commission

Candidate Statement

I grew up in Wilton, was a member of the Wilton Pony Club, and had a horse I boarded at various stables in town. I spent my youth either riding the trails daily or maintaining them with my father, who was involved with the Wilton Trails Association as well as being an architect in town. I have an abiding love for Wilton's land and ecosystem and a strong desire to preserve it, while understanding the need for responsible development.

I am a television writer. While I do not have a background in the environmental sciences, I do have journalism and documentary television production experience, and researching and assimilating information on new topics is an ongoing aspect of my work. I'm a quick study, and feel confident that with the necessary "break-in" period I could get up to speed on the commission's business and participate in a meaningful way.

Thank you for considering me.

PENELOPE KOECHL

917.612.4821 / penkoe@gmail.com
94 Graenest Ridge Rd., Wilton, CT 06897

AWARD WINNING STORYTELLER

CREDITS

PRIMETIME:

NBC - "Law & Order: SVU" - 2016

WRITER - "Fashionable Crimes"

- Pitched and wrote the only freelance episode ordered in Season 17
- Interfaced with showrunners, network, NYPD and legal advisors and all production departments
- Input in all location, casting, costume and set design decisions
- Worked closely with director, talent and producers on set
- Rewrites on set and notes in post

WEB SERIES:

OPEN BOOK PRODUCTIONS - "Venice, The Series" - 2012-2015

WRITER

- 2-time Daytime Emmy Award winning online serial
- Pitched and wrote or co-wrote story plus 24 half-hour episodes over two seasons

DAYTIME:

CBS - "As The World Turns" & "The Guiding Light" - Procter & Gamble Productions

- 17 years total writing for the soaps
- SCRIPT EDITOR - ATWT - edited/rewrote five 1-hour episodes per week. Managed and motivated 5-member writing team. Attended weekly network meetings. Interfaced with legal and medical advisors. Cut and added for time. Supervised continuity. Coordinated with all production departments
- SCRIPTWRITER - ATWT & GL - wrote one or more 1-hour episodes per week, 50 weeks a year, no hiatus, no reruns
- Collaborated on dozens of legal and medical story lines, including GLAAD award winning story on HIV

AWARDS

WRITERS GUILD AWARD

2 Wins - Outstanding Script, Television Daytime Serial, "As The World Turns"

7 Nominations

DAYTIME EMMY AWARD

1 Win - Outstanding Drama Series Writing Team, "Guiding Light"

8 nominations

PRODUCTION BACKGROUND

Ten years as a freelance Associate Producer, Line Producer, Production Coordinator or Script Supervisor for commercial and documentary productions in New York City and Los Angeles - more info on request

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE HOME STAGING - 2013-2017

Worked with Westport, CT realtor to help clients de-clutter and stage their homes for sale. Services included disposal/donation/sale of unneeded items, light packing, supervision of tradespersons and movers.

DIRECTOR, INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES, Morgan Manhattan Moving & Storage, Greenwich, CT - 2009-11

Directed new division of moving and storage company providing receiving, online inventory and delivery services to the interior design industry. Developed business relationships with designers, architects, vendors and homeowners in the tri-state area and beyond. Supervised and managed all client accounts, including local and interstate moves and white glove installations. Created and executed marketing plan. Grew revenue twenty-fold.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST – Council Member – multiple terms between 1990-2007

Elected position, governing board of the 4,000 member east coast branch of the film, television and newswriters' union. Chaired or served on various committees, participated in major contract negotiations with the AMPTP in Los Angeles in 2001. No longer a Council member, but still serve on the Election Committee.

STRATHMORE LANE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION – Board of Directors - Westport, CT – 2007-2009

Elected position. 63 Unit condominium complex. Chaired Architectural Committee which oversaw major renovation project including new windows and new siding.

EDUCATION

B.A., Hampshire College, Amherst, MA - Journalism, Literature & Film

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

My family moved to Wilton in 1965 when I was seven years old. I attended the Wilton public school system, owned a horse that I boarded in town, rode the local trails daily and was a member of the Wilton Pony Club.

My father Victor Koechl, was an architect in town and was also co-President of the Wilton Trails Association for many years. After retirement he became a Sedimentation and Erosion Inspector for the Town of Westport Building Department.

After his death in 2010 I inherited the family home -- a mid-century modern home he had designed -- and moved back to Wilton from Westport (having previously lived in Manhattan as well).

I am a graduate of the Wilton Citizen's Police Academy and have interacted with law enforcement technical advisors for various writing projects, including game wardens and members of the NYPD, FBI, DEA and ATF.

9/18/20