

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 - 6:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Frank Simone (acting chair), Jeff Lapnow, Colleen O'Brien, Susan DiLoreto (via phone), and Jackie Algon (via phone)

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director Environmental Affairs; Peggy VanAcker, Tree Committee

ABSENT: Jade Hobson (notified of intended absence)

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Simone called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.
- II. MEADOW PLAN – Mr. Conklin provided background on the request to manage invasives at Allen's Meadows. The Commission reviewed the letters from Winston & Company, LLC relating to the Allen's Meadows meadow plan.

Ms. O'Brien MOVED to SUPPORT the Allen's Meadows Meadow Plan as proposed, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 4-0-0.

Ms. DiLoreto joined the meeting via phone.

III. PLANNING & ZONING REFERRALS

- A. **SP#462, Peter and Kimberly Luppino, 18 Surrey Glen**, for a special permit to allow for the construction of an accessory dwelling unit within a new pool cabana

The Commissioners reviewed the plans and offers no comment.

- B. **SP#463, Bruce and Alireza Darbandi, 516 Danbury Road**, for a special permit to allow the adaptive use of the existing building for a tile showroom and office

The Commissioners reviewed the plans and offer no comments.

- C. **SP#464, Wilton Medical Realty, LLC/Wilton 40/60 LLC, 50, 60 and 64 Danbury**

Road, for a special permit to allow the conversion of an existing general office space into an ambulatory surgical center with medical offices at 60 Danbury Road

The Commissioners reviewed the referral and offer no comments.

IV. INLAND WETLANDS REFERRALS

A. WET#2616(S) MITCHELL – 146 Cedar Road – proposed filling of abandoned swimming pool

The Commissioners reviewed the plans and offers no comment.

B. WET#2617(I) FRIENDS OF NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL (NRVT) – Grist Mill Road/Old Belden Hill Road to Kent Road – proposed approximately 4,200 ft. of stone dust trail, a gravel parking area, one culvert, and 152 ft. of boardwalks

The Commissioners reviewed the plans and agreed to ask if the Friends of the NRVT can work with the local pollinator pathway group to replant the edge and out-compete invasives.

C. WET#2619(S) DARBANDI – 516 Danbury Road – improvement of an existing parking area and access driveway installation of pedestrian walkway and B100a within an upland review area

The Commissioners reviewed the plans and offer no comments.

D. WET#2621(S) MERCER – 97 Spoonwood Road – proposed conversion of indoor storage space and screened porch to interior space, update and expand deck with covered porch, grading and B100a

The Commissioners reviewed the plans and offer no comments.

V. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. **Parks Reports** – Mr. Conklin will distribute Mr. Herter’s Parks Report to all members after the meeting via email. Commissioners were reminded to walk their assigned parks monthly and report any issues. Ms. Algon provided positive feedback on the work Mr. Herter has completed on opening up the entrance to Vista Road property.

b. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Horseshoe Pond Management – Nothing to report.

Walks & Talks – Nothing to report.

Kent Pond Management – Nothing to report.

Schenck’s Island Plan – Nothing to report.

Ms. DiLoreto stated that she would like to stop doing the Conservation Activity Log. Park Walks & Talks will be placed on the Agenda for each Meeting.

c. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. **TREE COMMITTEE** – Ms. DiLoreto stated that the Tree Committee has put substantial time into a 10-year summary report of work completed since the Committee began as well as a proposal for the next 10 years. Ms. Algon also stated she had given a verbal report at a BOS Meeting. It has not yet been approved as of yet by the BOS. The Committee is a knowledgeable group and are all fully engaged. Work on the management plan is ongoing. Two walks have been completed with the Wilton Tree Warden, Lars Cherichetti, to access the maintenance of 75+ trees planted by the Committee and several other trees that exist on Town owned property in Wilton Center. Lars Cherichetti has advised he hopes to have all Year 1 tree pruning prioritized for the next meeting on March 11, 2020. Mr. Conklin noted there is a budget for tree pruning and added that the timeframe for this is coming soon.
- ii. **DEER COMMITTEE** – Nothing to report.

d. Planning and Zoning Liaison Report

Nothing new to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Inland Wetland Liaison Discussion

Ms. Algon stated that the Inland Wetlands Chair Elizabeth Craig has asked to have representation of the Conservation Commission attend each meeting. Commissioners discussed that the meeting videos are available on-line.

b. Townwide Clean-Up Day

Planning is underway for April 25, 2020. Kiwanis is donating prizes for the event.

c. Zero Waste Faire

Ms. Algon noted the set up time is 9am so they have another shift to fill. The Commissioners discussed what should be brought to the event for the table.

d. Review of Additional Goals from the POCD for 2020

The Members will hold a Special Meeting on March 12, 2020 at 7pm in Room 12, at Comstock Community Center to discuss further.

e. E-Newsletter

Commissioners discussed topics and timing of the newsletter. Ms. O'Brien will write an article on Allen's Meadows. A blurb about the Pollinator Pathway will be included.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Meeting Minutes February 5, 2020 and Special Meeting Minutes February 18, 2020

Mr. Simone requested the following revision on the February 18, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes:

One typo, one addition - Supplies, Frank: recycling towns' calendars; **clean-up day poster and hazardous waste mailer for trifold.**

Ms. O'Brien MOVED to APPROVE the Minutes above as amended, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 5-0-0.

XI. ADJOURN – Ms. O'Brien MOVED to ADJOURN at 7:43pm, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next regular meeting will be April 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs