

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Susan Diloreto (Chair), Jackie Algon, Frank Simone, Jeff Lapnow, Colleen O'Brien

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director Environmental Affairs; Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs

ABSENT: Jade Hobson (notified of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Diloreto called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

II. PLANNING & ZONING REFERRALS

A. **SDP, Three Hubbard Road, LLC, 3 Hubbard Road**, for a site development plan application to construct a proposed residential building to include 17 dwelling units

Mr. Conklin advised this application was filed under Connecticut General Statute 8-30g which represents a code that allows development to bypass most zoning requirements if they delegate a percentage of the residences as affordable housing. He confirmed a traffic engineer has been hired by the town to ascertain if there is a public health or safety threat which is the only avenue the Commission could use to deny the application. The Commission had no comments.

III. INLAND WETLANDS REFERRALS - None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. **Parks Reports** – Commissioners received Mr. Herter's Staff Report via email. The Commissioners commended him for keeping the trails in good shape.

b. Work with other Commissions/Committees

i. **TREE COMMITTEE** – Ms. Algon advised the Committee met recently to walk the Center to look for any maintenance issues that need to be addressed. The

Committee is searching for a single contractor to complete necessary pruning in the town center so that all is done in a uniform manner. All pruning must be conducted by a Connecticut Licensed Arborist.

- ii. **DEER COMMITTEE** – Mr. Conklin advised the hunting season is over and the data is being compiled and evaluated for planning of the 2020 Hunting Season.

- c. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Horseshoe Pond Management – Nothing to report.

Walks & Talks – Ms. O'Brien reported the recent walk at Cherry Lane Park was well attended and the trails are in good shape. The next walk is being held at Belknap Preserve on February 23rd at 1pm. A written procedure was requested for this process.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Algon stated she received a message through Lars Cherichetti from a Life Scout that is interested in building a dock on the pond for easier access. The Scout met with Mr. Herter and he will be putting a plan together for approval from this board.

Schenck's Island Plan – Mr. Conklin confirmed the Board of Selectmen approved the SIMM Plan this week.

- d. Planning and Zoning Liaison Report

Nothing new to report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Conservation Commission Goals & Objectives

Each Commissioner provided their #1 Goal for the Commission for this year. With similar goals it was decided to concentrate on public education and outreach (see attached). The outreach currently includes Townwide Clean Up Day, HazWaste Collection, and Zero Waste Faire. The education piece currently includes walks in town parks, talks at the Wilton Library, and links on the website. A discussion ensued relating to creating an E-newsletter, and each member was asked to write an article.

- b. Zero Waste Faire

The Commission would like to have a table set up for this event which will include the Tree Committee. The event is being held on March 29th at the Wilton High School Field House. The Commission will meet in Room 18 at Comstock Community Center at 6pm on February 18th to discuss what they would like to include at the table.

- c. Time Change for Meetings

The Commission discussed a change to the start time for the monthly meetings. The members agreed that 6pm will be the new start time moving forward.

- d. Townwide Clean-Up Day

Townwide Clean-Up Day is being held on April 25, 2020. All Commissioners were asked to attend. It was also noted that HazWaste Collection will be held on October 17, 2020.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Site Walk Meeting Minutes January 6, 2020

Ms. DiLoreto MOVED to APPROVE the Site Walk Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2020 as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. Algon and CARRIED 5-0-0.

b. Regular Meeting Minutes January 8, 2020

Ms. DiLoreto requested the following revisions:

III. A - Mr. Conklin advised how the violation occurred and nature of the activity. The Commissioners viewed the plans and agreed that the Inland Wetlands Commissioners will likely deny the application for being inadequate without replanting trees and removing the fill material. The Conservation Commission finds the proposed landscape plan submitted to correct the wetland violation is inadequate to restore the disturbed wetland.

IV b. SIMM Update- (NOT Schenck's Island Plan) – Milone & MacBroom provided the final concept plans at the last meeting. Town departments are deciding what can be built in-house and prioritizing the activities of the concept plan.

c. i. TREE COMMITTEE – Ms. DiLoreto reported Tree Committee discussion of use of the flailing machine mowing being completed by the Department of Public Works along roadsides. L. Cherichetti the Tree Warden will be part of the conversation with the Town and the Department of Public Works to see what can be done to improve how this is done in the future. (out- is handling this aesthetic issue for the town.)

V.d.a. SIMM Committee Update - See Activity Log Update Above

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

XI. ADJOURN – Ms. O'Brien MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:08pm, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be March 4, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs

2020 Goals & Objectives

Wilton Conservation Commission's goal for 2020 is to focus on enhancing Public Education and Outreach. The Commission will accomplish this goal by drafting an electronic newsletter and creating a webpage with more useful information on topics such as invasive species, native species and links to recycling information.

Current/Ongoing Public Education:

- Walks in Town Parks
- Library Lectures

Current/Ongoing Public Outreach:

- Townwide Clean-Up Day
- HazWaste Collection
- Zero Waste Faire

2020 Planned Education & Outreach:

- Expand reach for e-newsletter
- Website Links
 - Invasive Species
 - Native Plant Information
 - Recycling Information