

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 3, 2008 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL - MEETING ROOM A**

PRESENT: Commissioners; Dave Hapke, Kristen Begor, Kim Young and Patrice Gillespie, Christopher Coyle

ABSENT: Nick Lee and Kate Throckmorton (noticed of absence)

ALSO

PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Karen DeSantis, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hapke called the meeting to order @ 7:35 pm.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS –

1. WET#1847(S) – DESOLA – subdivision and redevelopment of two lots in a regulated area at 21 Edith Lane

Patricia Sesto described the existing property and proposed subdivision. She explained that the proposed septic systems would be in the regulated area.

Kristen Begor felt that in order to facilitate the two lot subdivision development, it would require clearing of the majority of trees.

Ms. Sesto pointed out that the leaching fields were not in the wetland but is proposed in the regulated area adjacent to them.

Chairman Hapke expressed his concern that so much of the sloped area would be disturbed.

Ms. Sesto indicated that the proposed plan shows that trees would remain just before the slope begins and emphasized the importance of having the limit of clearing specified on the proposed plan.

Patrice Gillespie expressed her concern regarding the "bio mass" disturbance.

Ms. Sesto stated that clearing on a steep slope will cause runoff and sediment which would be of concern.

A discussion ensued regarding possible alternatives that could preserve more of the woodlands. The Commission recommended that that the IWC consider and alternative with just one house.

2. WET#1854(S) – WILTON STORAGE PARTNERS, INC. –
"corrective action" to restore a riverbank, remove berm and fill
at 111 Danbury Road.

Ms. Sesto reviewed the violation which consisted of the construction of a berm to divert flooding and proceeded to describe the proposed mitigation plan.

Chairman Hapke asked Ms. Sesto if she was comfortable with the proposed application. She responded yes.

The Commission was satisfied with the proposed application.

3. WET#1855(S) – 19 DANBURY ROAD, LLC – "corrective
action" to restoration a riverbank adjacent to the Norwalk River
at 19 Danbury Road.

Ms. Sesto described the violation which consisted of a constructed wall to divert flooding and stated her opinion that the application was satisfactory.

The commission felt comfortable with the application.

4. WET#1856(S) – RAMADAHNI – "corrective action" to
restore grading and stone wall within a regulated area at 12
Center Street.

Ms. Sesto described the two aspects of the violation: the permit violation, which is comprised of discharge of polluted runoff and new violation of work associated with the patio expansion. She reviewed the proposed application that had been submitted.

The Commission was dissatisfied with the proposed plan and felt that the cement patio needed to be removed and replaced with a pervious surface consistent in size with the old brick patio. No work should be expanded onto the town easement.

The Commission also commented on their disappointment of the two large trees that had been cut, leaving 10 foot tall stumps that are being used as posts. Commissioners suggested a planting plan with indigenous planting.

Kim Young commented on the dumpster area and felt that it should be addressed to prevent runoff of contaminants and debris.

Chairman Hapke suggested promoting the river to the property owners and business owners and help them envision the advantages of having a view and access of the River Walk for business enhancement.

The Commission requested that proposed mitigation plan be revised and suggested that the applicant and agent attend the next scheduled meeting to discuss a plan.

Ms. Sesto suggested a clear narrative describing the accommodations to the River Walk

Ms. Gillespie and Ms. Begor expressed their concern of the lack of regard for the river and easement.

III. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS -

None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS—

1. Parks – All

Ms. Sesto reviewed the report submitted by Mike Conklin and reported on the success of the summer hire.

Ms. Sesto reported a situation at the Vista Road Park stating that the newly installed kiosk was placed on private property and in fact part of the path is on private property, too. She explained that the kiosk will be moved and path will be relocated.

2. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Ms. Sesto stated that there was nothing new to report.

3. Plan of Conservation and Development – Throckmorton

Ms. Sesto reported that Planometrics presented a draft of the conservation issues chapters to the Planning and Zoning Commission and a meeting to discuss them was rescheduled to an undetermined dated.

Ms. Gillespie suggested that the Planning and Zoning Commission consider putting the draft Plan on the town website for review and comments.

Ms. Sesto offered to pose the idea to the Town Planner.

4. Center Tree Plan – Sesto, Lee, Throckmorton

Ms. Sesto reported that there has been at least ten trees purchased since the last planting and then explained that some planting will be done this fall but other trees will be planted during the spring, depending on the species requirements.

5. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Chairman Hapke reported that he, Ms. Sesto, and Ms. Begor had toured Ridgefield, New Canaan, and Redding's transfer stations and recycling operations. He stated that the visits provided a good education and he has a meeting scheduled with Hal Clark, Selectman, tomorrow to discuss the topic. He expressed his frustration with the sluggish progress so far.

Ms. Gillespie reported that the Town of Ridgefield is using the proceeds from their material for ecological purposes and have bought "no idling" signs to be placed in various locations.

Kim Young suggested involving the Environmental Club at the high school in a project similar to Ridgefield's.

6. River Walk – Lee, Coyle

Chris Coyle stated that he and Nick Lee will schedule a meeting with Bob Russell for some guidance.

Chairman Hapke suggested acting on it as soon as possible while the synergy exists.

7. Work with other Commissions/Committees a. Parks and Rec./Allen's Meadows – Young

Ms. Young reported that she had sent a letter to Bill Brennan requesting funding for a landscape project at Allen's Meadow. He replied by requesting a promise from the State that the land would not be reclaimed. Discussion ensued regarding the impracticality of such a request. Ms. Young added that the funding request would need to be reviewed.

Chairman Hapke offered to request the topic be added to the next agenda.

b. Energy Commission

Chairman Hapke reported that he has meet with a Commission member on some topics and feels that the Commission will make noteworthy achievements.

Ms. Gillespie commented that there is software available for municipalities to measure the carbon footprint of the town that would include buildings and bio mass.

8. Regional Projects

a. Deer Management – Sesto

Ms. Sesto reported that the next Deer Alliance meeting is September 8 and she is anxious to be replaced as Chairman.

Ms. Sesto felt that the Alliance was not moving forward positively and felt that several members were not very motivated.

Ms. Sesto reported that she will suggest quarterly meetings.

b. Water Quality & Quantity – Gillespie

Ms. Gillespie reported NRWA is having a fund raising road race this Sunday. She added that she had emailed the Harbor Watch report to each of the Commissioners just before this meeting.

Ms. Gillespie will be looking for volunteers for the goose egg oiling project in the spring.

9. Household Hazardous Waste Day – 10/25/08

Ms. Sesto reported that everything is in order for the event.

Chairman Hapke requested volunteers for the morning and afternoon.

10. Fall Newsletter

Ms. Sesto asked that the articles be received by October 1st.

Ms. Gillespie offered to submit a “no idling” article.

Ms. Begor offered to submit an article on ponds and algae.

Ms. Sesto offered to write an article on loss of trees in relation to stormwater management.

11. Website – Gillespie

Ms. Gillespie announced that the website has a list of the bird species at Allen’s Meadow and a few new topics on the homepage.

12. Donations

None

13. Other

None

V. ONGOING BUSINESS–

1. Proposed Nominees for Tree Committee

Ms. Sesto reported that there have been no additions to the Committee but commissioners Kate Throckmorton, Nick Lee, and she will continue to manage the program.

Ms. Sesto stated that she hadn't heard from the Chamber of Commerce as of yet.

Ms. Young offered to follow up with the Garden Club members for a volunteer.

2. Other

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie reported the Planning and Zoning meeting items for July. She inquired about the grant money for the partial purchase of land at Cannon and Seely Road.

Ms. Sesto stated that the responsibility is handled through the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Hapke reported that there were no Planning and Zoning meetings in August and the Inland Wetland meeting applications were mostly corrective action applications and he praised the Inland Wetland Commission.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussed earlier

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 7/2/08

Not available

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Chairman Hapke at 9:45p.m., SECONDED by Kristen Begor and carried 6-0-0.

Submitted by

Karen DeSantis
Recording Secretary