

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL – MEETING ROOM "A"

PRESENT: Kim Young, Dave Hapke, Jeff Coppelman, Patrice Gillespie, Nicholas Lee

NOT PRESENT: Kristen Begor, Chris Coyle (noticed of intended absences)

ALSO PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Young, as vice chair, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

None.

III. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

None.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Parks - All

The commissioners received Mike Conklin's staff report by email. Ms. Young asked if the commissioners had any comments. Mr. Lee noted that there was nothing to report regarding Quarry Head Park.

2. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Ms. Sesto stated that there is nothing noteworthy to report.

3. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Mr. Hapke reported that he and Ms. Begor have continued to meet with Jen Fascitelli of the

Department of Public Works to review statistics from the recycling program. There was some discussion of costs and break even revenue vis a vis the transfer station.

There was some discussion of the plastic bag ban-campaign in Wilton. Ms. Sesto noted that Selectman Ted Hoffstatter is the main proponent of the campaign. He has been in contact with the Environmental Affairs Department, but has not sought the commission's assistance.

4. Work with Other Commissions/ Committees

a. Tree Committee

Ms. Sesto and Mr. Lee reported. Wilton will be coordinating with Norwalk for the Tree Festival on May 22. A bench proposal for the Center Tree Plan has been completed. The Tree Committee will operate an information booth at the Wilton Go Green Festival. Ms. Sesto noted that the committee is prepared to begin receiving tree donations again.

b. Deer Committee

Ms. Sesto noted that they have not met in the interim. There was discussion of changes and improvements to the Town's controlled deer hunt. Ms. Sesto referred to Tony DiNicola, a deer biologist and deer culling proponent, who has suggested other programs.

c. Energy Committee

No report.

d. Go Green Festival

Ms. Gillespie reported on developments with the Go Green Festival. The keynote speaker will be an aerial photographer who has published a coffee table book discussing land use patterns. She noted several other organizations who will present exhibits. She also reported that 3 local pizza restaurants will donate 50% of their profits on 3/20 and 3/21 to the Festival.

Ms. Sesto also reported an email from Ms. Begor reporting that Ridgefield store Practically Green is offering a composters for \$50. She had no detailed information.

5. Regional projects

a. Fairfield Co. Municipal Deer Management Alliance - Sesto

Ms. Sesto noted that she will be stepping down as chair.

b. Norwalk River Valley Trail – Coyle, Sesto

Ms. Sesto noted that they should be receiving a grant shortly. She reported that the subcommittees have begun meeting. She also noted a press release that was prepared by Gail Lavielle to provide more complete information to the media about the project.

6. Pharmaceuticals Collection – Sesto

Ms. Sesto reported new developments. It will take place at Comstock Community Center on May 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Norwalk Hospital will be providing pharmacists and a waste hauler. Aquarion Water Company is providing a cash donation, CERT will provide volunteers, and the Wilton Police Department will provide officers. There will be another coordinating meeting to discuss logistics on March 9. Ms. Young volunteered to work with that group.

7. Newsletter

Ms. Sesto noted the articles that are slated for the Spring Newsletter: longhorn beetle, pharmaceuticals collection event, recycling program, Go Green Festival, Town Clean-Up event.

8. Other Business

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Town Clean-Up

Mr. Coppelman is trying to schedule a meeting with Mike Conklin.

2. Natural Resource Inventory - Gillespie

Ms. Gillespie has met with the former Environmental Director of the Town of Guilford, who is willing to speak to the Commission about their experience. There was discussion of how the NRI could be used to benefit the Town, and how the initiative could be staffed – volunteers or professional consultants.

3. Route 7 Study Meeting

Ms. Gillespie reported on the Route 7 Study Public Meeting held on March 8, 2010.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie submitted her report to the other commissioners and summarized the proceedings of the Inland Wetland Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nothing additional to report.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2010

Mr. Lee MOTIONED to accept the minutes without revisions, Mr. Hapke SECONDED, PASSED

4-0-1, Ms. Gillespie abstaining.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hapke MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m., Ms. Gillespie SECONDED. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison McConnell
Acting Recording Secretary