

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY December 1, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

Present: Kim Young, acting chairman, Patrice Gillespie, Dave Hapke, and Nick Lee.

Absent: Chris Coyle (noticed of intended absence), Kristen Begor (noticed of intended absence), Jeff Coppelman (noticed of intended absence)

Also Present: Patricia Sesto and Recording Secretary Liz Larkin

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
- II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Kristen Begor was nominated to Chair the Conservation Commission for 2011. Mr. Lee MOVED to approve the appointment, Ms. Young SECONDED, and it CARRIED 4-0-0. Ms. Young was nominated to Vice Chair/Secretary. Ms. Gillespie MOVED to approve the appointment, Mr. Hapke SECONDED, and it CARRIED 4-0-0.
- III. 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE - The 2011 Calendar was provided to the Commission. Mr. Hapke MOVED to approve the schedule, Mr. Lee SECONDED, and it CARRIED 4-0-0.
- IV. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS – None
- V. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None
- VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks - Ms. Young noted that Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst, sent out the staff report to all members.

Schencks – Ms. Sesto recently walked the trails and noted that they could use some work. There are a good number of fallen trees and vines.

Mr. Hapke inquired about hiring a company to help with the clean-up. Mr. Lee suggested that we could ask a local company for their chipper and a few volunteers as there is no

budget for this work. With the recent storm, there may be more blow downs so this is a good time to walk the trails.

- B. Recycling – Begor/Hapke** - Mr. Hapke reported that the new scale is going in and then the layout will be arranged.
- C. Town Leaf Composting Program/Policy** – The commission discussed the Composting practices of nearby towns. New Canaan and Westport both have large scale programs whereby property owners and contactors can deposit their leaves for composting as well as take the finished product for personal use. It should be noted that this compost is not organic due to the vast area where the leaves are collected.

Ms. Gillespie noted that there is currently no space at the Wilton Transfer Station for this program. Ms. Sesto inquired whether there is a sense of need from the community. Ms. Gillespie said she would do some research to see what is currently happening in the town with private owners and lawn care specialists. The sense is that most leaves are blown into the woods as there is open space for this on most properties. Mr. Hapke noted that it may be too much work for citizens to put the leaves in bags and bring them to a transfer station when they can simply blow them into the wooded areas that are not wetlands.

D. Work with other Commissions/Committees

1. **Tree/Bench Committee** – Ms. Sesto reported that the new trees have been installed in front of Village Market. At Bill Brennan's urging, the Tree Committee is reviewing town properties for additional bench sites. Merwin Meadows has several locations that should be considered. Steve Pierce of Parks & Recreation said that Comstock could benefit from new benches. Jamie VanAkker will be contacted to discuss potential installation at Allen's Meadows.
2. **Energy Committee** – Ms. Gillespie reported that the Committee is in contact with Neighbor to Neighbor this month in planning a launch of the energy challenge which will be early 2011. There will be an on-line way to track energy consumption and savings. She explained that there are software developers nationwide working to accept data-dumps by account number. This system is built to encourage people to get a home energy assessment. There is a \$25 coupon currently available so the cost is only \$50. The commission members that have completed their assessments noted that they received more than \$50 worth of light bulbs alone so this is well worth the cost.
3. **Go Green Committee** – Ms. Sesto reported there is a meeting this week. She added that they are meeting with Andy Geremia with Food Runners CT to see if food that would have otherwise been thrown out can in fact be donated.

Mr. Lee noted that there may be an issue with the Go Green website as someone he knows did not get a response to 3 emails that sent.

E. Regional Projects

1. **FFD Co. Municipal Deer Management Alliance** - Ms. Sesto stated that there was nothing new to report. As of December 1, 2010, the DEP website notes 63 deer have been harvested in Wilton.
2. **Norwalk River Valley Trail** – Ms. Sesto reported that the committee has been working with the National Park Service. The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2010.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Town Leaf Composting Program/Policy – discussed earlier in the meeting. Please see notes above in Ongoing Business.

VIII. **Liaison Report** – Mr. Hapke reported that he attended two Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings in November. He spoke at the Public Hearing for the 4-lot subdivision at 137 Olmstead Hill Road. P&Z members were not addressing items from the Conservation Commission recommendations, most notably the concerns regarding open space. Mr. Hapke suggested that the applicant place the four homes closer together instead of spreading them out over the land.

Mr. Hapke also reported on the TIAA-CREF application for additional parking at 10 Westport Road was continued as the Wetland Commission needs to review the draft approval.

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Sesto noted that we have received the registration information for the NOFA Conference which is \$95/person. The budget has \$315 left until the end of June so the Commission should make a decision on who would benefit the most by attending.

- VIII. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 11/03/10** – Mr. Hapke MOVED to approve the minutes and Mr. Lee SECONDED the motion. The Minutes were APPROVED 4-0-0.
- IX. **ADJOURN** – Ms. Young MOVED to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Lee SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Next meeting will be January 5, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Larkin
Recording Secretary