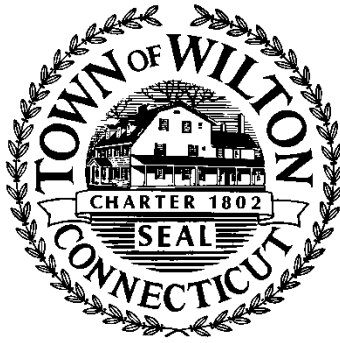


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

January 5, 2011

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

Present: Dave Hapke, acting chairman, Patrice Gillespie, Nick Lee, Chris Coyle, Jeff Coppelman

Absent: Kristen Begor (noticed of intended absence), Kim Young (noticed of intended absence)

Also Present: Patricia Sesto, Director Environmental Affairs, Recording Secretary Liz Larkin, Ryan Apanovitch, Transportation Planner CT DOT, Amanda Freitas, Transportation Planner CT DOT

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Hapke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- II. Ryan Apanovitch and Amanda Freitas reviewed a PowerPoint presentation noting how they planned and executed the Route 7 Wetland Creation Project. A hard copy of this presentation is available in the Environmental Affairs Office.
- III. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS – None

A. WET#2005 (S) – HALAN – 295 Newtown Turnpike – construct detached garage within a wetland buffer.

Ms. Gillespie noted that she visited the site earlier in the day with Ms. Sesto.

Ms. Sesto reviewed the plan with the commission including alternates. The proposed garage has three bays and as they are requesting a half bath, a new septic plan has been required. The commission noted that the proposed garage is very large and the applicant may be able to reconstruct the basement to create a third bay without a separate structure being required. A separate garage at the bottom of the existing driveway is also a less disruptive alternative. If the garage was an expansion of the existing house, the health code would not require a second septic system. Staff was instructed to check with the Health Department to ascertain what is the minimum connection between the house and separate garage in order to consider it one structure.

- IV. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None

V. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks - Ms. Sesto confirmed that the commissioners received Mike Conklin's Staff Report via email which includes notes on his recent site visits. Ms. Sesto noted that the office has received several calls from residents that are pushing back on the recent trail closures in Town Forest.

B. Recycling - Mr. Hapke stated that there is nothing new to report.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

1. **Tree/Bench Committee** – Ms. Sesto stated there is nothing new to report.
2. **Energy Committee** – Ms. Gillespie confirmed that there is nothing new to report.
3. **Go Green Committee** – Ms. Gillespie stated there is nothing new to report.

E. Regional Projects

1. **FFD Co. Deer Management Alliance** - Ms. Sesto stated that the name has been changed for this group whereas the "Municipal" has been removed.

Ms. Sesto reported that the Alliance is meeting with the DEP to discuss relaxing the hunting regulations. The DEP has stated that it would not be possible to "over-hunt", so the board would like to focus on safe and humane ways to harvest deer. Ms. Sesto reported that the United States purchases venison from New Zealand as the USDA has regulations that state the inspector must see the animal live in order for the meat to be approved for sale. Due to logistics, this is typically not possible in the USA for harvest wild animals.

2. **Norwalk River Valley Trail** – Ms. Sesto reported that this week closes the "call for qualifications" for the routing study. There should be a consultant in place by early March. The next outreach subcommittee is meeting in the spring.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Connecticut Product Stewardship Council – Ms. Sesto referred to Mike Conklin's email to the commissioners in that there is a focus on manufacturer responsibility for end-of-life management relating to recycling.

A discussion ensued on who should sign the Letter of Agreement for the most impact: Conservation Commission or First Selectman's Office. The commission agreed that they should sign the form and ask for assistance from Selectman Brennan. The Dept. of Public Works will be involved in this initiative as well.

B. Perry Evans Estate – Ms. Sesto explained that the estate could be property of the town. She described the location and the property characteristics.

Mr. Coppelman MOVED to recommend acceptance of the property donation, Mr. Hapke SECONDED, and it CARRIED 5-0-0.

VII. **Liaison Report** – Mr. Coppelman reported that he attended a Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting in December. He noted that the commission discussed the Vollmer sub-division, and TIAA-CREF.

Mr. Coppelman confirmed that there is a changed plan for Vollmer with no rain garden. There is an issue with the open space in the back of the parcel. The subdivision regulations are vague relating to the convenience of the pond to all lots on the property.

Mr. Coppelman reported that the approval from Planning and Zoning for TIAA-CREF is in conflict with the Inland Wetland approval. Inland Wetlands approved “phase 2” of the project only. Planning & Zoning approved “phase 1”. As such, the Planning and Zoning Commission may reject the entire project as wetlands take precedence. Ms. Sesto reports that the Town has been served with an appeal, challenging the conditions of the approval.

VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Sesto stated that she has nothing further to report.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12/01/10 – Mr. Coppelman MOVED to approve the minutes and Ms. Gillespie SECONDED the motion. The Minutes were APPROVED 5-0-0.

X. ADJOURN – Mr. Hapke MOVED to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Coyle SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be February 2, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Larkin
Recording Secretary