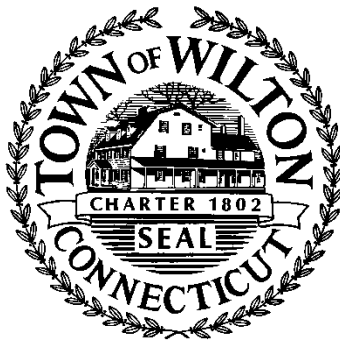


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**July 6, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.**

**TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"**

Present: Kim Young, acting chairman, Dave Hapke, Patrice Gillespie, Jeff Coppelman, Nick Lee

Absent: Kristen Begor, Chris Coyle

Also Present: Patricia Sesto, Director Environmental Affairs, Recording Secretary Liz Larkin

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

**A. WET#2040(S) – MCDONAGH – 11 Woodway Lane** – installation of pool within an upland review area

Ms. Sesto described the plans presented. There is a significant lack of detail, including missing information on tree removal. Ms. Sesto confirmed that the grading is proposed to direct overland flows back around to the watercourse. There is a concept B proposed, but there are no narratives included so it is unclear what the differences are and which proposal is preferred.

The commission comments include concern about a large oak tree that seems to be in the ramp access for construction vehicles. There is inadequate information presented and the location is questionable as there is a tiered garden currently in that space. The commission also suggested mitigation down stream along the side of the house where lawn is up to the watercourse edge.

**B. WET#2044(S) – TOWN OF WILTON – Merwin Meadows** – dredge swimming pond.

Ms. Sesto confirmed that the pond hasn't been dredged since she has been with the town. There were previous plans to dredge but they did not go forward due to costs. The town has now received funding to repair the pond.

Ms. Sesto reported that the material being dredged will likely be sandy and will dry quickly. The spoils should be removed as soon as they are dry. If they

remain on site, another storm could wash it right back into the pond. These spoils will be brought to Allen's Meadows. Ms. Gillespie inquired about the amount and depth of the dredging which will be incorporated in the Commission's comments to the Inland Wetland Commission.

### III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS

#### A. **SP#367, Wilton Auto Park, LLC, 380 Danbury Road**, Automotive sales and service facility

Ms. Sesto reported that Planning and Zoning is reviewing an auto park at the building that has the tractor on the awning on Route 7. The proposal should include infiltrators but they are over an aquifer. The applicant needs to present the discussion of stormwater management and aquifer protection.

### IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

#### A. **Newsletter** – Ms. Sesto confirmed that all newsletter articles are due at the September meeting. All commissioners have committed to their article topic already and staff will send out a list for reference.

#### B. **Parks** – Mr. Coppelman noted that Millstone Farm trail is so overgrown that he could not find the trail. Ms. Sesto confirmed there is a slim easement around the perimeter of the field. It was also mentioned that the horses are no longer on this property.

Ms. Gillespie asked about the large dead maple in the middle of the field at Sackett Preserve. Ms. Sesto confirmed that she prefers the tree to remain for animal habitat purposes. A discussion ensued relating to the wood that is removed from fell trees. There is a company that will remove the wood and re-use if for other purposes such as heating.

#### C. **Recycling** – Mr. Hapke updated the commission with the situation between the Mom's Group of Wilton and the trash haulers. Jennifer Fascitelli met with some of the Mom's and explained that some of the issues are with the haulers and some are with the way the recyclables are separated by residents. If a resident is not happy with their hauler, they can switch to another hauler.

#### D. **Work with other Commissions/Committees**

1. **Tree/Bench Committee** – Mr. Lee reported that there is a Katsura and an Oak left to plant. The family of George Symonds, posthumous Tree Steward of the Year, decided to pay for the tree in George's honor.

Ms. Sesto reported that Mr. Brennan had met with 2 residents that will donate one bench each. We have not received a check as of yet so Mr. Brennan should follow up with them. Ms. Sesto also confirmed that one of the benches in the center was painted inadvertently. She will attempt to find out who did this and have it corrected.

Ms. Young stated that she has two fringe trees for sale that are left over from the Garden Club Sale. Each tree is \$32 if anyone is interested.

2. **Energy Committee** – Ms. Gillespie reported on the last committee meeting where the group was broken into sub-committees. They are working with Go Green and the Neighbor to Neighbor group as the energy program is not easily sold to residents. There were some issues with the website that have now been addressed. There is a cap on home energy audits for oil heat that most residents have.

The Energy Committee is currently working with Wilton Go Green and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor staffers to focus on "income-eligible" home energy audits. Qualified families can get free information, energy efficiency upgrades & retrofits and possibly even free Energy Star appliances.

Wilton is currently at a bit of a disadvantage with the N2N program (as compared with the other 13 participating towns) since there is no single individual who has stepped forward to lead and coordinate our town's various N2N initiatives, although the collaborative teamwork in place is managing to advance the town's progress.

**Go Green Committee** – Ms. Gillespie reports that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Go Green Festival planning is underway.

Ms. Gillespie announced the winner of the Walk in the Woods Contest was a 6 year-old boy named Isaac. He and his family walked all twelve parks and he will receive a Cannondale bicycle.

Ms. Gillespie also reported that the Go Green Committee is partnering with [350.org](http://350.org). They are spearheading a bicycle ride on September 24, 2011, from Calf Pasture in Norwalk to Danbury in the general direction and vicinity of the future Norwalk River Valley Trail. There are some logistics to work through in a small amount of time but the group is moving forward. Metro North Railroad is considering adding 2 cars to the train for attendees to be able to fit on the train for the return trip.

## **E. Regional Projects**

1. **FFD Co. Deer Management Alliance** - Ms. Sesto reported that the Deer Alliance has a Freedom of Information (FOI) Claim.
2. **Norwalk River Valley Trail** – Ms. Sesto reported that ride in conjunction with 350.org is underway. The committee is looking to hire someone who can organize volunteers, update the website and be in charge of public outreach. The group meets every Tuesday morning from 8am to 9:30am.

V. NEW BUSINESS - None

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie reported that the Inland Wetlands Commission voted for a draft resolution. The Gueron/Cannondale application was withdrawn by the applicant.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Ms. Gillespie noted that she and Jana from Go Green had put up flyers for the Walk-in-the-Woods and asked for assistance in taking them down now that the contest is over. Mr. Hapke agreed to remove the sign from Town Forest.

Mr. Lee reported a tilted kiosk at Belknap.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 6/1/11 – Mr. Hapke MOVED to approve the minutes and Mr. Lee SECONDED the motion. The Minutes were APPROVED 5-0-0.

IX. ADJOURN – Ms. Young MOVED to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Hapke SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting will be September 7, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Larkin  
Recording Secretary