

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**April 4, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.**

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

Present: Kristen Begor, Chair, Patrice Gillespie, Susan DiLoreto, Daniel Berg, Donna Merrill, Kim Young

Also Present: Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary

Absent: Patricia Sesto, Director Environmental Affairs, Jeff Coppelman (notified of intended absences)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Begor called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

- a. **WET#2097(S) GARRITANO – 19 Ground Pine Road** – “corrective action” to restore wetland, expand pool deck, and remove trees and vines

Ms. Merrill and Ms. DiLoreto indicated they visited the site.

Ms. Begor described the storm damage that took place on this property. The homeowner hired a company to clean the storm debris but they removed all the trees at the front of the property and placed the debris in the wetland in the back of the house. She described it as a dumping ground in a regulated area. The homeowner would like to change portions of the property immediately adjacent to the wetland into lawn, to which the commission objected. The trees to the south should also remain.

The commission noted that there is skunk cabbage present and the flare of trees indicates that there is high ground water in an area not defined as a wetland. The map should be revised. There seems to have been some correction work as the stone wall has been removed and there are two new flowering trees at the driveway entrance.

- b. **WET#2098(S) HUDSON – 532 Danbury Road** – “corrective action” to install restorative plantings and patio in a wetland and a patio, retaining wall and steps within the upland review area

Ms. Begor described this violation as removal of all understory on the northern portion of the property. The plants on the submitted planting plan

are smaller than they should be, and are not deer resistant. Ms. DiLoreto noted that evergreens may not be the best choice for this shady area as they need more sun. Ms. Begor added that the trees and plants concentrated along the Norwalk River would not survive in the event of the river flooding.

c. **WET#2099(S) PETTIT – 27 Wolfpit Lane** – construct pool and other site improvements 60 ft. from wetlands

Ms. DiLoreto and Ms. Merrill indicated they visited the site.

Ms. Begor explained the application for a pool installation along the slope. She noted that the builder has not sold the property yet. The commission agreed that the bio retention pond approved in a previous application is not functioning properly as it is full of standing water. The pool is not a concern for this commission as it is small and they did not find any other site on the property that would be recommended.

d. **WET#2101(S) CHACE – 17 Azalea Lane** – construction of pool, patio, and septic within an upland review area

Ms. Begor, Ms. DiLoreto and Ms. Merrill indicated they visited the site.

Ms. Begor described the existing home and the plan to construct extensive decking and a pool. She noted that the footprint for this construction is larger than the house. In order for this work to take place, the septic system will need to be moved.

The commissioners discussed the current wetland as being dry and rocky with little vegetation. The consensus was to suggest breaking up the deck into smaller pieces. The commission also wanted to suggest pervious decking and improving the site with plantings along the slope.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS - None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. **Parks –**

Ms. Begor asked the commissioners to walk their parks and complete the Park Form for each visit.

Ms. Begor noted that each commissioner has their new set-aside assignments and they should be walking these parks as well, utilizing the same Park Form for each visit. Mr. Berg asked if there was a more recent publication of the set-asides as the one distributed dates back to 1989. Ms. Larkin confirmed this is the latest version.

B. **Newsletter –**

The majority of the Commissioners noted that they received their copy of the 2012 Newsletter in their mail on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

##### **Tree/Bench Committee –**

Ms. DiLoreto reported that the Tree Committee is holding a Tree Walk at Woodcock Nature Center on April 29, 2012 from 2 – 4pm. She also reminded the commission that the Tree Festival is being held on May 19, 2012 from 11 – 3pm. She added that the committee is currently looking to find ways to avoid clear-cutting on residential properties.

##### **Deer Committee –**

Mr. Merrill reported that she attended the March Deer Committee meeting. She stated that the surveys have been completed by most of the participating hunters in the 2011 hunting program. There were only 164 deer harvested, which is not enough. The committee is looking to improve the numbers by extending the allowable hunting season, the use of firearms, and requesting that the Land Trust relax their restrictions.

The commission discussed the water company lands and its difficulties with trespassing, even with hunting signs present. They also discussed allowing hunting during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. The commission will try to re-open the same land next year; Belknap, Pope's Pond, Middlebrook, Harrison-Smith Preserve, Crystal Lake, Vista Road, and the Town Forest. Ms. Gillespie added that her hunter noticed a big population in the Silver Spring area which should be recommended next year.

##### **Energy Committee –**

Ms. Gillespie reported that she has recently returned from a trip in upstate New York where they looked at energy-efficient commercial buildings. She noted that 27 states are C-PACE which means Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing.

##### **Go Green Committee –**

Ms. Begor reported that the Green Homes Tour on Sunday May 20, 2012, is being extended for a new home that has joined in New Canaan. The new hours are 1pm – 5:30pm. There is a \$20 fee per family and participants can go in any order they wish.

A discussion ensued relating to adding events to the town and library calendars. A calendar may also be helpful in the conservation newsletters.

#### **E. Regional Projects**

## **1. FFD Co. Deer Management Alliance**

Ms. Sesto was not in attendance so this item was not discussed.

## **2. Norwalk River Valley Trail**

Ms. Young noted that the routing study had slated the NRV to pass through Allen's Meadows in a bird habitat. The bluestem meadow should remain as it is today and the trail will need to pass closer to Route 7.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Town Clean-Up Day Discussions/Ideas**

Mr. Berg reported that he cleaned up the area on Mountain Road where Route 7 was supposed to go. He stated that he came across three classes of litter: commuter traffic debris, kids dumping cans/bottles, and the debris from downtown and the schools/parks. He added that 90% of the debris he removed was recyclable. The commission discussed adding garbage cans and recycling bins throughout high traffic areas. Ms. DiLoreto suggested adding a fee to assist Parks & Recreation with the clean-up after an event on town property. The commission agreed that Allen's Meadows is the showcase of our town, and this area needs better upkeep.

The commission discussed starting a campaign for carrying out what you carry in. There could be signs installed around town and a website and logo can be created for recognition.

## **VI. LIAISON REPORT**

Ms. Young reported that she went to the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where the Wilton General Motors presented their new car showroom where pervious pavement is part of the design. The applicant has stated that IWC asked for more plantings but the applicant did not want to make the area a nursery. She added that she stood up and raised concern about their lighting at night which could disturb bird migration.

## **I. DIRECTORS REPORT**

Ms. Sesto was not in attendance so this item was not discussed.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3/7/12 –**

Ms. Begor MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill, and CARRIED 6-0-0.

## **III. ADJOURN – Ms. Begor MOVED to adjourn at 9:09pm, SECONDED by Ms. DiLoreto, and CARRIED 6-0-0.**

Next meeting will be May 2, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Larkin  
Secretary, Environmental Affairs

DRAFT