

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

July 3, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

Present: Donna Merrill (Acting Chair), Patrice Gillespie, Frank Simone, Susan DiLoreto

Also Present: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst, Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary

Absent: Dan Berg, Kristen Begor (notified of intended absences)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Merrill called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRAL

A. WET#2197(S) MERCADO – 235 Cannon Road – construction of a single family residence

Mr. Conklin reviewed the plans and showed where the new house is proposed. He stated that the property already has lawn and he did not foresee any conservation issues with the application. The commission agreed that there would be no comment for this application.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS - None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks

Mr. Conklin confirmed that he sent the commissioners the latest staff report via email earlier in the day. Ms. Gillespie stated that Julian Sproule, Audubon Society Member, will be leading a walk in Cherry Lane Park on Saturday, July 6th at gam to which all are invited.

Ms. Merrill noted that she saw an article from Anne Deware in the newspaper asking for volunteers to help with a lily pulling event. Mr. Conklin added that the aquatic plant survey was completed by the CT Agricultural Experiment Center, and the report should be available prior to the next meeting. The

commission acknowledged that a \$200 donation was sent from Toll Brothers to assist with the lily pad issue.

Park of the Month – Wild Duck: Mr. Conklin stated that there is work that needs to be done in Wild Duck that could be completed by the commissioners in two hours time. Mr. Conklin will pick a few dates and will check with all commissioners for availability to complete the work.

Parks that currently require work hours are:

1. Cherry Lane Park – new sign needs to be installed and the trail needs to be re-routed at the Banks Drive entrance
2. Bradley Park – select boards need to be replaced
3. Wild Duck – invasive removal at entrance

B. Work with other Commissions/Committees

Tree/Bench Committee – Ms. DiLoreto reported that the America the Beautiful grant is being finalized. The committee is looking for a local woodworker to assist with the museum in the streets that they have planned. She also confirmed that the Tree Maintenance Agreements are being completed with property owners in the center.

Ms. DiLoreto commented that the Tree Festival was well-attended. She stated that the surrounding towns may schedule a meeting to share ideas for future festivals. The Tree Steward Award was granted to Young's Nursery. She added that the committee is considering replacing the current metal signs at each donated tree with a more permanent plaque.

Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill stated there was nothing to report.

Energy/Go Green Committee – Ms. Gillespie stated that the town put in two bids at the Field House for solar energy. She also indicated that the vehicle charging station may be installed at the Comstock Community Center due to the central location. They are presenting to the Board of Selectmen shortly.

Land Trust – Ms. Merrill stated that the Land Trust recently held a senior project day with approximately 15 Wilton students who pulled artemnesia from Schencks Island.

Norwalk River Valley Trail – Nothing to report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gillespie asked if the Wilton Welcome Wagon provides new residents with

an overview of the rules and regulations for the town's land use. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the Wilton Q&A Guide is provided to them that has the basic information for each land use department. Ms. Larkin confirmed that Cora Martin, of the Wilton Welcome Wagon, receives several hundred of these a year for her use and that the guide is being revised to reflect new rules and regulations.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Simone confirmed that he did not attend any Planning and Zoning Meetings as there was nothing conservation related.

Mr. Simone reported that he attended both Inland Wetlands Commission Meetings in June. He confirmed that the experts hired by the commission for the ASML application thoroughly addressed the content and Ms. Sesto was careful to address the comments of the conservation commission.

Mr. Simone also reported that the Mitchell application was moving forward with the focus being on the potential additional run-off to the neighbors that he felt were properly addressed.

Mr. Simone stated that the Silver Hill applications for the bridge repair and pond dredging did not have the level of detail required for the commission to make a decision. He added that Ms. Sesto raised concern about dredging the pond purely for aesthetic reasons.

Ms. Gillespie is the liaison for July. She indicated that she cannot attend the July 11th Wetlands Meeting and Ms. DiLoreto confirmed she can attend in her absence.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 6/5/13 –

Ms. Merrill MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. Simone, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

VIII. ADJOURN – Ms. Merrill MOVED to adjourn at 8:21pm, SECONDED by Ms. Gillespie, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

Next meeting will be September 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin
Secretary, Environmental Affairs