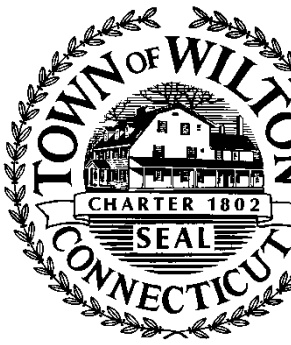


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

September 4, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

Present: Dan Berg (Chair), Patrice Gillespie, Frank Simone, Susan DiLoreto, Kristen Begor

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

Absent: Donna Merrill (notified of intended absences)

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
- II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRAL - None
- III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None
- IV. Horseshoe Pond Discussion

Mr. Conklin stated that the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Aquatic Plant Survey findings will not be compiled for some time, but he did have an opportunity to speak with Greg Bugbee about the results. The intent of the survey was to confirm that any other invasive species would not appear and take over after the proposed treatments. Mr. Bugbee confirmed that there is no risk of other invasive aquatic species, so he would recommend the application of chemicals to control the lilies.

Mr. Conklin confirmed that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have verified that these chemicals are acceptable to use in this instance, and are used routinely in many state water bodies.

Mr. Berg inquired if a town monitor would be necessary to ensure that the prescribed use of chemicals is strictly adhered to. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the town would not be present, but it is in the best interest of the applicator to stay true to the state permit. Ms. Begor asked if there were any precautions necessary during spraying.

Ms. Deware confirmed she would write letters to all abutters as to when the spraying would take place. Ms. Begor confirmed that the spraying will take place for three consecutive years. Mr. Conklin confirmed the approved chemicals from the DEEP were glycosphate, which is a spray, much like Round-Up, and 2-4D, which is a granular product. He added that the State confirmed that one year of treatment should create a drastic improvement from existing conditions.

Ms. Deware confirmed that the cost for the first year of spraying will be \$5,500. She will begin fundraising once the approval is granted and she hopes that the town could help with some of the costs.

Ms. Gillespie confirmed that a third chemical, Clipper, was mentioned during the initial presentation and asked why it is no longer on the list. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the State did not approve the use of this chemical yet. He added that the CT DEEP explained that Cutrine plus, an algaecide, may be necessary to prevent future algae blooms.

Mr. Berg MOVED to recommend the approval of the project to the First Selectman's Office starting in May 2014, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 4-0-1 with Ms. Gillespie abstaining as she stated the 2-4D is too risky for her to support.

Ms. Begor asked that an article is considered for the paper to notify residents of this upcoming project.

V. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks

Mr. Conklin confirmed that everyone received the latest staff report via email. He stated that there is some vine management that will take place at Horseshoe Pond, with the assistance of Scouts. Ms. Begor suggested contacting Deloitte for their assistance as they are always looking at ways to help the community with working days.

Park of the Month – Bradley Park: Mr. Conklin stated that there is a walk taking place on Saturday, September 7th at 9am starting at the Oak Ledge entrance off Wolfpit Road. All are invited to attend.

B. Work with other Commissions/Committees

Tree/Bench Committee – Ms. DiLoreto reported that the America the Beautiful grant is completed. There was no meeting in July.

Deer Committee – Ms. Gillespie stated that her hunter attended a meeting with the DEEP that was well received. They have some new options they are

exploring with automatic feeders and hard closing parks so not to disturb their natural paths.

Ms. Gillespie MOVED to APPROVE hunting at the following town properties: Sackett Preserve, Vista Road Property, Belknap Preserve, and Wren Thicket, SECONDED by Ms. Begor, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Energy/Go Green Committee – Ms. Gillespie stated that there was an Energy Committee meeting last week and several projects are underway with an eager new staffer. This staffer is helping the CT-PACE program by helping commercial and non-profits in Wilton with clean energy installations.

Ms. Begor confirmed that Go Green will meet next week.

Land Trust – Ms. Merrill was not in attendance to provide a report.

Norwalk River Valley Trail – Nothing to report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Household Hazardous Waste – Mr. Conklin stated that the Wilton collection will take place on October 26th and everyone should be willing and able to assist with this event. He confirmed that this may be the last year the town will accept paint as there is a new program in place where businesses that sell paint will accept paint back to recycle. Mr. Conklin confirmed he would send a letter to the editor with these updates.

Fall 2013 Newsletter – The due date for articles is September 23rd. The articles that will be written include an article on bees which will be done by Deb Delinger, Mr. Conklin will write an article on Horseshoe Pond and the new paint recycling program. Mr. Berg agreed to write an article on the Emerald Ash Borer. Ms. Begor stated that she could rewrite a recent NRW article on pesticides. Ms. DiLoreto confirmed she would write an article on the Mile-A-Minute Vine.

VII. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie reported that she attended an Inland Wetlands Meeting where Silver Hills was presenting applications for bridge replacement and dredging of a pond.

Mr. Berg is the liaison for September.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Conklin confirmed that there is a Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists conference on invasive plants taking place on September 12, 2013.

Mr. Conklin also stated that the CT Urban Forest Council Nominations are coming up, and Dave Francefort should once again be nominated for his work in Town Forest.

Ms. Gillespie submitted her resignation letter effective after the November meeting, but noted that she is actively trying to find a replacement.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 7/3/13 –

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. DiLoreto, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

X. ADJOURN – Ms. Gillespie MOVED to adjourn at 9:00pm, SECONDED by Ms. DiLoreto, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be October 2, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin
Secretary, Environmental Affairs