

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

April 2, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL - MEETING ROOM "A"

Present: Dan Berg (Chair), Frank Simone, Susan DiLoreto, Donna Merrill, Jackie Algon, Kristen Begor

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

Absent: Jill Brown (notified of intended absence)

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.
- II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None
- III. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports – Mr. Conklin stated that the boardwalk at Bradley Park is in disrepair. Timber & Stone, the company that is building the Norwalk River Valley Trail, conducted a safety assessment of the boardwalk. They deemed the boardwalk as beyond repair and confirmed it should be closed down due to public safety concerns. The support beams consisting of locust logs can remain.

Mr. Conklin confirmed that he worked with a volunteer to remove many of the boards that were rotting. There will be more work completed this spring to remove the boardwalk and improve the overall safety of the park.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates – The commission discussed the working log and confirmed that the Spring Clean-Up Day can be removed from the list. No other updates were made.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. DiLoreto stated that the committee is currently focusing on the upcoming Tree Festival.
- ii. Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill confirmed that the committee is assessing the 2014 hunting program based on responses from surveys from 2013.
- iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill reported that Wilton Land Trust is partnering with the Aspetuck Land Trust to create a pilot project for a woods forum. The forum will take place at the Weston Library.

D. Regional Projects

- i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership (FCRCP) – Ms. Merrill reported that this group is cruising along with their strategic action plan.
- ii. Norwalk River Valley Trail – Ms. Larkin reported that the demonstration trail is almost complete and confirmed there is an upcoming celebration event on April 26th.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Czegledi - 12 Gaylord Drive South Encroachment – Mr. Conklin confirmed that this encroachment issue has been ongoing since 2011. After several attempts to get into contact with the owners, a sheriff was hired to serve them with papers. Mr. Conklin confirmed that he and Ms. Sesto met with the property owners on-site after the letter was served.

The property owners indicated that they have owned their property since 2003 and they bought the property with this encroachment. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the town has aerial photos which prove that the clearing has been done since 2003. The town's intent of the restoration is to bring the area back to the wooded state that it was prior to 2003. Mr. Conklin confirmed that this situation typically warrants a visit from him and Ms. Sesto to determine the types and density of trees in the adjacent woods. He noted that the trees in the area are mostly white oaks, black oaks, red oaks, and beech trees. As these trees successfully grow in the area, these would be the types of trees the town would expect them to replace. The work will also be

bonded to ensure an 80% survival rate for the first two growing seasons. In addition, the pile of rocks that have been placed as a retaining wall shall be moved to the property line and be 15 feet on center to permanently delineate the property.

The commissioners discussed the possibility of requesting that the area of the retaining wall be re-graded to the original grade as there was a concern of the earth collapsing once the boulders are removed.

Mr. Berg MOVED to support the staff in sending a letter from the commission on the remediation that was discussed with the homeowner at the site visit with staff, sent via certified mail SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 6-0-0.

CL&P Tree Trimming Discussion – Mr. Berg confirmed that everyone received the email from Mr. Conklin which included an article from the New Haven Register relating to the new regulation proposed by CL&P UI before PURA. Ms. Begor confirmed that letters are still being mailed to PURA from other groups in the area to contest the removal of an eight foot swath around power lines.

PaintCare Program Discussion – Mr. Conklin made the members aware of the Connecticut Paint Stewardship Program recently implemented. He confirmed that this program saves the commission roughly 50% in costs for the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

Mr. Conklin will check the current contract with the Hazardous Waste vendor to determine if residents with paint to recycle at the event in October 2014 could legally be turned away.

Town-Wide Clean Up Day – Mr. Berg confirmed that this Saturday is the scheduled clean-up day and all attendees should report to the town green at 9am. Mr. Conklin noted that it may be good for commissioners to work with volunteer groups. Discussions have already started about possibly having t-shirts made for next year's event.

Newsletter Update – Ms. Larkin reported that the newsletter is almost completed and will be sent to the printer shortly. She also confirmed that these are being sent via Every Door Direct Mail, at a cost of half the postage from previous years.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

March 2014 - Mr. Berg confirmed he did not have any meetings to attend in March as there was nothing conservation related.

Ms. Diloreto is the liaison for April.

New Commissioner Liaison Assignments – Ms. Algon would like to be the liaison for October. The only other open month is July, so Ms. Larkin will check with Ms. Brown to confirm this month works for her.

VII. End of Term for Ms. Begor – Mr. Berg thanked Ms. Begor for her 9 years of excellent service and presented her with a certificate that indicates the commission would like to plant a flowering tree in her name in Wilton Center.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3/5/14 –

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill, and CARRIED 6-0-0.

IX. ADJOURN – Ms. Diloreto MOVED to adjourn at 9:02pm, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill, and CARRIED 6-0-0.

Next meeting will be May 7, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin
Secretary, Environmental Affairs