

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 4, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.**

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

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

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None
- III. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS
  - a. SDP, 44 Westport Road, LLC, 44 Westport Road – to allow for the construction of twenty (20) housing units

Mr. Conklin displayed the plans and indicated that a stormwater management system is proposed. He explained that the applicant has proposed pervious pavement to minimize runoff. He confirmed that the impervious roof drain leaders will discharge into pipes where the water will be sent to the underground stormwater detention system that consists of attached concrete units that hold the runoff. Any overflow of this detention area will flow to the storm drain which discharges to the nearby Copts Brook.

Mr. Conklin stated that he did not find any propane tanks noted on the plans. He explained that this is a typical oversight in development which he would like to pinpoint prior to Planning & Zoning approval as there is not much room left on the site. He added that oil tanks are not mentioned so this would be a Conservation concern as well.

Mr. Conklin noted that the two soil stockpile areas seem small for the area they are clearing. He also noted a concern about the site lines for the public road.

Mr. Conklin stated that he was concerned about the stone walls on the proposal as they are mostly on town property and the plan shows them being moved in towards the development. He confirmed that there are Stone Wall Protection Guidelines that were adopted by the Board of Selectman in 1997. These guidelines include using native field stone with dry-laid construction

methodology.

The commission looked at the trees that are on the plan to determine which trees should be saved and/or protected during construction. Mr. Conklin added that the root structure should also be protected, especially with the proposed shifting of the stone wall which seems to fall in an existing line of trees.

Mr. Conklin stated that he did not find any soil testing data in the proposal. He would like to understand how deep the bedrock is in the area. He stated that it may not be feasible to fit the proposed stormwater system. Similarly, he stated it would be important to investigate the ground water level as the proposed system may not be able to handle the additional water.

The commission was satisfied with these recommendations from Mr. Conklin and gave him the approval to send these recommendations via memo to the Planning & Zoning Commission on their behalf.

#### IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Parks Reports** – Mr. Conklin confirmed that he emailed the parks report to all members. He confirmed that he is in the process of installing the new park signs.
- B. Conservation Activity Log Updates** – The commission discussed updates to the working log. The updates included the meeting of Mr. Conklin, Ms. Merrill, and a volunteer Mr. Francefort. They are working to create a plan for the Quarry Head Trail Consolidation. The discussion included the clarification that Quarry Head is a State Park with the maintenance being handled by the Town of Wilton. Terry Goodwin, a long-time steward of the property, has a caretaker on the site which she funds. Any work being done should be communicated to Terry Goodwin.

Ms. Merrill verified with the commission what her long-term ideas are for Horseshoe Park. She stated she wanted to focus on the overgrown portion of the park which is town-owned. She would like to obtain an assessment for water fowl, amphibians, and habitat and noted that this could be a good opportunity, with the proximity of the schools, to get the students involved with the stewardship. She stated that she would like to clear areas on the western bank for visitors to have access to the pond.

Ms. Brown and Mr. Berg confirmed they are meeting soon to discuss the potential Facebook page for Conservation.

Ms. Algon confirmed that the Garden Club would like to co-host two park walks in the Fall. She stated that they would like to complete one in September and one in October. Ms. Algon asked if there were specific parks

that this commission would like to include. Mr. Berg stated that he would like the walks to include families so parks that interest children would be preferred. The commission decided that Bradley Park and Cherry Lane both have well established and maintained trails that would be fun for families. Wild Duck and Schenck's Island were other suggestions.

Ms. Algon noted that the Garden Club's Invasive Workshop has been re-directed to be a Pesticide Workshop instead. She confirmed they are working with the library to schedule this program which would illustrate the impact that pesticides have on our water supply and overall health. She indicated that New Canaan has started a great website around this topic.

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

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. DiLoreto confirmed that the Tree Committee is working to instill better communication with the town and create more awareness of the work the committee completes. She also confirmed the committee is considering their involvement with the Tree Festival as there is a low Wilton presence at this event.
- ii. Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill confirmed the Deer Committee is gearing up for the upcoming Hunting Season which begins on September 15, 2014.
- iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill reported that the celebration planning is underway for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilton Land Trust.

### **D. Regional Projects**

- i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership (FCRCP) – Ms. Merrill reported that this group has written their strategic action plan/executive summary which will be presented to the Conservation Commissioners at the next meeting.
- ii. Norwalk River Valley Trail – Mr. Conklin confirmed that the second section of the Wilton Loop will be starting this month. This portion will start at Raymond Lane and go to Sharp Hill Road. This weekend is the Connecticut 2014 Trails Day Weekend and the NRVT has invited volunteers to help clear brush for this new section.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Merrill stated she was at Young's Nursery earlier in the day and was concerned that she saw a salesperson selling large quantities of barberry to a landscaper. She asked if the commission could educate the local nurseries about the invasive issues of these plants. Ms. Algon stated that the Garden Club may be apt to do this education. It was suggested that this be a newsletter article.

Mr. Berg confirmed that he sent an email to all commissioners relating to the FOIA training that is taking place shortly in Darien. He stated he went to a recent class and felt it was very helpful. Any commissioners that would like to go can contact Ms. Larkin who can get them registered.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

May 2014 - Ms. Merrill confirmed she did not have to attend any meetings in May as there was nothing conservation related.

Mr. Simone is the liaison for June.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 5/7/14 –

Ms. Merrill MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. Algon, and CARRIED 5-0-1 with Mr. Berg abstaining as he was absent.

VIII. ADJOURN – Mr. Simone MOVED to adjourn at 9:01pm, SECONDED by Ms. Brown, and CARRIED 6-0-0.

Next meeting will be July 2, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Larkin  
Secretary, Environmental Affairs