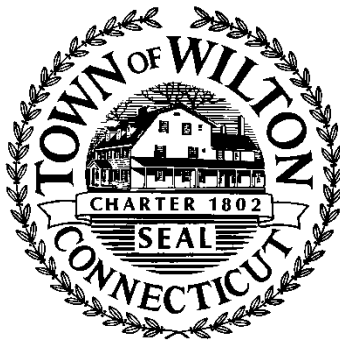


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**January 2, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.**

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

Present: Donna Merrill (Acting Chair), Patrice Gillespie, Frank Simone, Dan Berg

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

Absent: Kristen Begor, Susan DiLoreto (notified of intended absences)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Merrill called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

**A. WET#2159(S) ASML –77 Danbury Road – building addition and relocation of driveway**

Mr. Conklin confirmed the proposed addition is going over an existing asphalt parking area. The runoff equivalent of the addition, which is approximately 4,000 sq. ft., will go into a detention area prior to discharging to the Norwalk River. Mr. Conklin stated that this detention system will benefit the river and the surrounding area.

Ms. Gillespie asked about the newly installed fences that are around the river. Mr. Conklin confirmed that this was added as a geese deterrent when the last application was approved to repair the bridge at the entrance. Ms. Merrill stated that fishing wire can be set up around water bodies which also deter the geese without being unsightly.

The commission agreed that there would be no comment or recommendation to the Wetlands Commission for this referral.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS - None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

**A. Parks**

Mr. Conklin confirmed that he has completed his park assessment for downed, damaged, and dangerous trees from the recent Super Storm Sandy.

He reported that nine parks require an arborist and the town will ask for reimbursement from FEMA for these expenses. He is obtaining quotes from three companies and will get the work started as soon as possible.

Ms. Gillespie stated that the damages at Cherry Lane Park are more than she can handle herself. She reported that she has removed some smaller brush but would like additional assistance. Ms. Merrill asked if the downed trees would be chipped. Mr. Conklin responded that Schencks Island is the only park where the wood is chipped. He explained there are access issues and costs involved with chipping the wood. He added that the fallen wood is good habitat for small animals and therefore beneficial to remain.

Ms. Merrill asked if letters went out to the Spencer-Rice Preserve neighbors relating to the dumping that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the letters were sent out and explained that one neighbor saw some dumping and called the police but the license plate number they reported was not accurate.

Ms. Merrill stated that she would meet with Mr. Conklin during office hours to get the “Park Rangers” initiative started which was discussed at the last meeting.

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

### **Tree/Bench Committee –**

Nothing to report.

### **Deer Committee –**

Ms. Merrill confirmed that the hunting season ends on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The archery report as of the second week of December stated that Wilton harvested 88 deer, which is short of the 300 deer goal. The firearms results will be posted in the spring, which typically takes more numbers than archery.

Ms. Merrill stated that 48 property owners were matched with hunters this year and that there are most likely more properties being hunted based on a personal relationship with hunters from past years. The committee mapped the town to find out areas that are gaps in hunting so that these areas can be added next year to cull the herd.

### **Energy Committee –**

Ms. Gillespie stated that the committee will meet at the end of the month so

she will provide an update at the next meeting.

#### **Go Green Committee –**

Ms. Gillespie stated that the Go Green Committee recently received the Green Coast Award for best Environmental Task Force. Ms. Gillespie added that the energy audits are still available and if we can get more residents to sign up, we may surpass Ridgefield who is currently leading the contest in number of audits.

#### **Land Trust –**

Ms. Merrill stated that she and Mr. Conklin are participating in a walk on Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> with Bill McKinney, an expert on invasive removals, at Harrison Smith Preserve and Gregg Belknap Preserve. She confirmed she would provide a report at the next meeting.

Ms. Gillespie stated that she thinks the commission should review the minutes from the Land Trust meetings to familiarize themselves with what is happening as that group has the same goals and objectives. She stated that it is important to gain relationships and acquire properties as it has been some time since a new property was donated. Mr. Conklin confirmed that Ms. Sesto has been working with individuals in the town for years but new relationships are always welcome. The commission asked that Mr. Conklin gain more information on this topic by speaking with Ms. Sesto and provide a report at the next meeting.

#### **D. Regional Projects**

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Town Wide Clean Up Day – Mr. Conklin stated that the commission's town wide clean up day needs to be scheduled for this year. To avoid issues with participation, he suggested April 6<sup>th</sup> as the date as this does not interfere with Easter or the school vacations.

Ms. Gillespie has offered to contact Pinocchio Pizza for approval to provide participants with a free slice of pizza voucher. Mr. Simone will work with Mr. Conklin to get volunteers for the day and to help spread the word throughout town.

Ms. Merrill suggested initiating neighborhood groups that will clean up their streets as a regularly recurring event, in addition to a town wide clean up every spring. She stated that a “captain” would be needed to spearhead these events. Ms. Gillespie noted that Greenwich currently has a similar program and it works well.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Simone reported that he was advised not to attend the Planning & Zoning Meeting as there was nothing relating to this commission. Mr. Berg, who was covering Mr. Simone’s Wetlands Meeting also stated he was not required at the meeting so he has nothing to report.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12/5/12 –

Ms. Gillespie sent Ms. Larkin a revised paragraph relating to the Energy Committee report which has been updated accordingly.

Ms. Merrill noted that Dave Cote’s name was spelled incorrectly so Ms. Larkin will revise this on the final copy.

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as amended, SECONDED by Mr. Berg, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

VIII. ADJOURN – Mr. Berg MOVED to adjourn at 8:23pm, SECONDED by Ms. Gillespie, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

Next meeting will be February 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Larkin  
Secretary, Environmental Affairs