

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2010 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL – MEETING ROOM "A"

PRESENT: Kim Young; Dave Hapke; Patrice Gillespie; Nicholas Lee

ALSO PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Allison McConnell, Acting Administrative Secretary

NOTICED OF INTENDED ABSENCE: Kristen Begor; Jeff Coppelman; Christopher Coyle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Young called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

- A. **WET#1958(S) – GEORGE** – proposed pool and terracing within a regulated area at 35 Branch Brook Road.

Commissioner Hapke stated that there were no conservation issues associated with this application and MOTIONED to convey "no comment" to the Inland Wetlands Commission regarding WET#1958; Commissioner Gillespie SECONDED; PASSED 4-0-0.

III. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

None.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Parks - All

The Commissioners received Michael Conklin's memo by e-mail. Ms. Sesto noted Chairman Begor's memo sent by email, regarding Horseshoe Park, previously discussed at the April 7 meeting.

Commissioner Lee asked if it was okay to place an additional tree at Quarry Head Park.

Ms. Sesto asked him to clarify whether than was part of the orchard/fields Larry Goodwin worked to restore. Mr. Lee explained that the proposed location was south of Larry's orchard work and the tree would create a triangle with two other trees already in place, to the right of the path and near the property line with the Harrison Smith Preserve.

Ms. Sesto noted that a scout is volunteering to rebuild a boardwalk/bridge at Sackett.

Commissioner Gillespie noted that she left a report on Spencer-Rice on Michael Conklin's desk.

2. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Ms. Sesto stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

3. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Commissioner Hapke reported on the presentation given at the Wilton Go Green Festival, May 2. About 5 people attended and had good questions. He also noted that they are planning to meet with representatives of Waste Zero, the company that provides branded bags for recycling.

4. Work with Other Commissions/ Committees

a. Tree Committee

Ms. Sesto had no new information to report, and reminded the Commissioners that the Tree Festival is scheduled to take place May 22.

b. Deer Committee

Ms. Sesto explained that the Deer Committee must prepare a yearly summary of the deer management program for approval by the Conservation Commission; it is then forwarded to the Board of Selectman. She shared the summary report with the Commissioners. She noted that the committee's plans for 2010 are to focus on private property hunting, however the Deer Committee is requesting if there is no robust support for private property hunting, they would like to utilize the town properties they have previously hunted.

Commissioner Young stated that an area of interest Comstock behind Riding Club where deer congregate.

Ms. Sesto noted that there were some issues of tension between neighboring hunters and Town hunters there, and the sign-in book is currently missing. She will be able to see the sign-in records for the Ridgefield hunt as part of her work in connection with Ridgefield's Conservation Commission.

Commissioner Lee MOTIONED to approve the report forward it to the Board of Selectmen with the provision if the Deer Committee wants to use town property this fall, then they need to get approval from this commission; Commissioner Hapke SECONDED; PASSED 4-0-0.

There was some discussion of the cost analysis that is being prepared by the Alliance.

c. Energy Committee

Commissioner Gillespie noted that her only disappointment from the Go Green Festival was that the indoor discussions were not well-attended.

There was some discussion about repeating, or making the Festival an annual event.

There was some discussion about the distance between activities, and whether the activities and schedule were sufficiently publicized.

d. Go Green Festival

See above discussion under Energy Committee.

e. Medication Turn-In Day

Ms. Sesto reported that the event was a success. She shared the summary survey results with the Commission. She noted that it might be feasible to move the event to a model like the Hazardous Waste Days, by partnering with neighboring towns to accept waste medications on various dates throughout the year.

Commissioner Hapke noted that someone had asked him how to safely dispose of medications at home. Ms. Sesto explained that for most medications, except for a "hot list" of controlled substances like oxycotin, it is safe and preferred to mix the medications with kitty litter or coffee grounds in a tightly sealed container and put them out with regular household garbage for incineration.

She noted that in total, the project collected 3 5-gallon buckets full of controlled medications.

Ms. Sesto also stated that thank you notes will be drafted and sent to all the sponsors and volunteers.

5. Regional projects

a. Fairfield Co. Municipal Deer Management Alliance - Sesto

Ms. Sesto reported no new information

b. Norwalk River Valley Trail – Coyle, Sesto

Ms. Sesto stated that the Federal government has released the grant money to the State, but it has not yet been dispersed to the grant awardees.

6. Newsletter

Commissioner Lee suggested that the next newsletter include a reprint of the Stone Wall Guidelines.

7. Other Business

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Commissioner Hapke reiterated his report sent by email to the Commissioners.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Sesto reported that she will be making a presentation at the Kiwanis meeting on May 26.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 7, 2010

Commissioner Hapke MOTIONED to accept the minutes without revisions; Commissioner Lee SECONDED, PASSED 4-0-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Young adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison McConnell
Acting Recording Secretary