

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

September 7, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

Present: Kristen Begor, Chair, Kim Young, Dave Hapke, Patrice Gillespie

Absent: Chris Coyle, Jeff Coppelman, Nick Lee

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Begor called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

**A. WET#2053(S) – 190 DANBURY ROAD ASSOCIATES – 190 Danbury Road –
construct new car showroom in an upland review area**

Mr. Conklin described the site plan including the proposed car showroom building and the changes to the parking lot. The applicant is proposing to replace the existing gravel in the parking area with pervious pavement. This project also includes the removal of a stormwater discharge pipe that feeds into Bryant's Brook and the installation of a bio-filtration swale to renovate stormwater before it enters the brook.

The parking area in the eastern portion of the lot will be expanded into the lawn area. Mr. Conklin noted that the Inland Wetland Commission typically requires details for the long-term maintenance of invasive species in the bio-filtration swale area and where the mitigation plantings are being proposed. Mr. Hapke confirmed that a bond will likely be required. He added that the same requirements should be met that Bruce Bennett had when they added their new showroom and planted nice plantings between the road and the parking spaces for cars. It keeps it from looking like a strip mall and gives his dealership a vision of professionalism and class. As proposed, the new building would not have such a landscaping. If a planted area in size equal to what they have in front of the current building was added, they too could look like a classy dealership rather than a "used car lot". They as well as the town has much to gain by paying attention to these plantings.

Mr. Conklin described the ten to twenty foot tall screening cedars at the front

of the existing buildings that will be removed for the expansion. The Conservation Commission recommended that the screening be replaced.

The property overlies an aquifer protection area but is not located in a public drinking water supply aquifer. For this reason, the commission asked that Wetlands confirm where the storage of oil is proposed as well as confirmation of floor drains.

A discussion ensued about the oil water separator and its location on the property. Mr. Hapke was concerned about the slope of the final proposed pavement and function of this system. The commission will recommend details be received prior to the approval of this system.

The commission questioned why additional parking spaces are needed. Ms. Begor suggested that additional parking could be accommodated on the side of the building outside of the regulated area.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS - None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Newsletter – Ms. Begor confirmed that the Fall 2011 Newsletter articles were due today. She asked Ms. Larkin to confirm if more articles are needed. She also suggested that Lieutenant Brennan with the Wilton PD write an article about the new unwanted medication receptacle. Mr. Hapke noted that all newsletters should be delivered to residents by October 15, 2011.

B. Parks – Mr. Conklin noted that all commissioners should be walking their respective parks to check for downed trees and dangerous situations. FEMA will be providing assistance for the cleanup from Tropical Storm Irene so all issues need to be reported for FEMA to be included in the grant.

Ms. Begor noted that a large oak on Land Trust Property fell into a neighbor's home. She will notify Bruce Beebe to correct this situation.

Mr. Hapke asked if he needed to walk the Town Forest since Dave Francefort does so much work in that park. Mr. Conklin confirmed that Dave Francefort has been working to clear the trails in Town Forest and it is not necessary for Mr. Hapke to visit at this time.

Mr. Conklin reported that he hiked Bradley Park and 11 trees were downed. A discussion ensued about what site work Mr. Conklin can safely handle on his own. If he finds any threats to structures, roads, or trails, he calls an expert.

Mr. Conklin also reported on Belknap Preserve and Sackett Preserve. There were some downed trees he was able to remove with a hand saw. A discussion ensued about mowing these meadows. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the mowing takes place

prior to the first frost. Ms. Gillespie noted that Keeler's Ridge is cut every February and this may be a better time so no ground-nesting birds are affected. Mr. Conklin confirmed that the town recently invested in clearing brush and vines at Sackett Preserve and the mowing should continue twice per year to prevent invasive species from taking hold. Ms. Begor suggested starting a community garden. Mr. Conklin will look into the restrictions. Ms. Begor stated she would speak to the Garden Club about partnering on this project which can include a wildflower meadow.

- C. **Recycling** – Mr. Hapke reported on the article he completed for the newsletter. He stated that he provided the figures based on resident waste. Jennifer Fascitelli with the Department of Public Works was obtaining the commercial waste figures but got caught up in the cleaning after Tropical Storm Irene.

Ms. Gillespie asked if Household Hazardous Waste fliers that are generated should include information on the new e-waste recycling program. Mr. Conklin stated that the two should be kept separate so there is not additional confusion about the Hazardous Waste program.

D. **Work with other Commissions/Committees**

1. **Tree/Bench Committee** – Ms. Young reported that her tree in front of Village Market has died. Mr. Conklin confirmed that there is some type of rust or fungus that has affected all six trees in this location. Mr. Lee is working with the company where they were purchased as they were supposed to be disease resistant.

Ms. Begor reported that only one beech tree died of the fifteen that were planted at Allen's Meadows. This dead tree will be replaced by Mr. Lee.

Mr. Conklin notified the commission of the small brown gators that he has purchased for some of the donated trees. They have a lower profile than the green ones that are currently on some of the trees.

Energy Committee – Ms. Gillespie reported that the committee has been very busy. The Board of Selectmen agreed to become a clean energy community. The current information shows that the town is using 20% clean energy and the goal is to be 30% by the year 2015. She noted that the committee is looking for new members and there is a new Public Act that went into place. She stated that there is a good summary of the act on their website.

Go Green Committee – Ms. Gillespie confirmed that each of the commissioners received the Moving Planet Fliers for September 24, 2001. She stated that anyone can register for this event on-line and Metro North will be bringing attendees back from Danbury at the end of the bike ride. She noted

that there will be a picnic at Middlebrook Schools and New Haven has some late afternoon festivities.

E. **Regional Projects**

1. **FFD Co. Deer Management Alliance** - Ms. Sesto was not in attendance to provide an update. Ms. Gillespie confirmed that her hunter from last year contacted her and they are slated to work together again this season.

Ms. Begor asked Mr. Conklin if there is a deer feeding system at the Vista Road Open Space area as she saw something there during a recent visit. Mr. Conklin confirmed that this is not something the town installed and should not be in that area. He stated he would look into it.

2. **Norwalk River Valley Trail** – Ms. Sesto was not in attendance to provide an update.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **2011 Deer Management Proposal** – Ms. Sesto will send the proposal to the commission members via email and there will be a vote via email.

VI. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie reported that she attended a Planning & Zoning Meeting where affordable housing was discussed. She noted that one of the commissioners, Bas Nabulsi had completed some research and had some good points and there was a good discussion. Ms. Gillespie noted that Doug Bayer's position remains that affordable housing is not a land-use issue.

Ms. Gillespie also noted that the July 11th Planning and Zoning meeting included a traffic flow discussion for the new Standard Petroleum Location at the intersection of Routes 7 and 33.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

- VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 7/6/11 – Mr. Hapke MOVED to approve the minutes and Ms. Begor SECONDED the motion. The Minutes were APPROVED 4-0-0.

- IX. ADJOURN – Ms. Begor MOVED to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Hapke SECONDED the motion. The motion CARRIED 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Next meeting will be October 5, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Larkin
Recording Secretary