

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY January 6, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Dan Berg, Chair, Donna Merrill, Jackie Algon, Frank Simone, Susan DiLoreto
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst; Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs
- III. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.
- IV. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None
- V. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

A. Sub#915, 183 Ridgefield Road, LLC, 4-lot subdivision

Mr. Conklin displayed the plans for this subdivision and described the layout of the proposed lots. He confirmed he had met with the developer in advance of the application to ensure all development is outside the 100 ft. regulated wetlands area.

Mr. Conklin stated that he had the opportunity to look at the site prior to the recent cutting of trees adjacent to Ridgefield Road. He indicated that the trees that were removed recently (although it seemed to be clear cutting when viewed from the road) was actually removing storm damaged and dying trees. He confirmed there are mature trees that will remain on the site.

Mr. Conklin stated that he provided a staff report for Planning and Zoning asking for preservation of the standing trees and historic stone walls on the site. Ms. Merrill asked if high density housing was considered. Mr. Conklin responded that he is not aware of this being considered.

Mr. Conklin added that the barn is being preserved but the home is in very bad shape and may not be able to be saved.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports – Mr. Conklin stated that the fallen tree in Horseshoe Pond was successfully removed in December. He noted that Jeff Lavaty, whose property is closest to the pond, assisted in the process of obtaining a quote that would work within our strict budget.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Quarry Head Trail Consolidation – Ms. Larkin confirmed she has been in contact with Dave Francefort to schedule a meeting in late January, although the date has not been set.

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Ms. Merrill stated the sub-committee is meeting next week to create the planting plan. There was a question raised as to what funds are left over in the gift fund to help pay for the proposed plants. Mr. Conklin stated that the money raised in the gift account needs to be set aside for lily pad removal.

Mr. Simone left the meeting as he was under the weather.

Park Walks – Mr. Berg reported that the walk at Bradley Park the Sunday before Christmas was well attended with 10 – 15 people of all ages.

A discussion ensued about scheduling the January and February walks. The commission was considering what would be appropriate for a moonlight walk for January. It was decided to have the walk at 5:30 pm when the moon is rising and to provide a bonfire, s'mores and hot chocolate. There could be a discussion about the phases of the moon, or the animals that are present at night in the area. Ms. Algon will contact the Wilton Bulletin and Mr. Berg will contact Good Morning Wilton to advertize this event. The discussion included a need for a way to cancel the event in case of inclement weather.

The February walk would fall on the 21st, and the commission decided to table the details until the next meeting when the board can discuss the attendance for the January walk. Some ideas to consider are possible snowshoeing if there is snow cover.

Carry In/Carry Out Initiative – Mr. Berg stated he will send the information he gathered to Mr. Conklin via email.

GIS Trail Maps for Walkers Guide – Mr. Berg stated there is no update at this time.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. DiLoreto reported that the Tree Committee did not meet in December as there was no quorum.
- ii. Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill stated the DEEP website currently shows a Wilton harvest of 106 as of the end of December. This tally is quite low for this time of year. Most hunters report low numbers due to the unusually warm weather.
- iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill stated there is currently no Land Trust activity to report. The typical annual meeting held in January will be scheduled in the near future.

D. Regional Projects

- i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership – Ms. Merrill reported that they are holding their big meeting with area Land Trusts in a few weeks.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Email to Mr. Berg from John Kelly** – Mr. Berg reported that he was copied on an email from the First Selectwoman that was sent in response to John Kelly who is very interested in volunteering for the town-wide clean up. Mr. Conklin confirmed he has been in contact with Mr. Kelly and all correspondence should come directly from him.

VIII. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Merrill was the liaison for December and reported there were no conservation related applications, so she did not attend any meetings.

Mr. Simone is the liaison for the month of January.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12/2/15

Ms. Algon MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. Merrill, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

- XII. **ADJOURN** – Mr. Berg MOVED to adjourn at 8:19pm, SECONDED by Ms. Algon, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

Next meeting will be February 3, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs