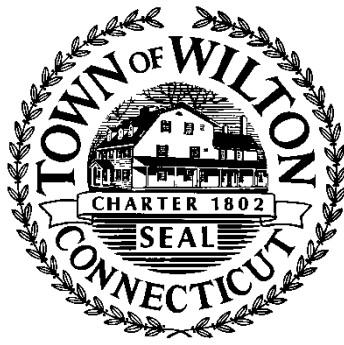


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY October 7, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.**

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

**MINUTES**

- I. PRESENT: Dan Berg, Chair, Donna Merrill, Jackie Algon, Susan DiLoreto, Frank Simone
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst; Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs
- III. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Berg called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
- IV. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None
- V. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None
- VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

**A. Parks Reports** – Mr. Berg reported that the walk at Sackett Preserve was not well attended attributed to not being highly publicized.

Ms. Algon stated that the next walk is being held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at Quarry Head State Park with Donna Merrill as the lead. She also stated she is trying to reach Kim Young to see if she would be willing to lead a bird walk in November. A discussion ensued relating to what property would be best for a bird walk at this late stage of the season. Mr. Conklin suggested having the walk in the early morning hours when birds are most active. Ms. Algon will speak with Ms. Young and report back to the commission.

Mr. Conklin mentioned that a full moon walk may be fun to hold in the winter. He suggested a campfire, s'mores and a telescope. The commission discussed the best possible date with a full moon, and January 24, 2016 was noted as a possibility.

Ms. Algon confirmed there is a talk scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Diane Lewis at the Library for a "Great, Healthy Yard Project". Ms. Algon stated that the other sponsor's of the event paid \$175 each for this talk so this commission may want to send a formal thank you note. A discussion ensued relating to video-taping this talk. As there were some issues with this process in the past, Ms. Algon confirmed she would speak with the Library about this possibility.

Ms. Algon stated Patrick Sweeney has compiled, with the help of the Yale Peabody Museum, a digitized collection of herbarium, with some dating back to 150 years old. She noted there are approximately 1,225 samples and are almost 100% Wilton plants. Mr. Sweeney is being asked to speak at the Library during the daytime, in November, as a curator of these historic plants, many of which cannot be found anymore. The members agreed that this speaker would be co-sponsored by Conservation Commission.

Mr. Conklin confirmed Mike Lindberg, of Norwalk River Valley Trail, Tom Thurkettle, of Wilton Department of Public Works, and Bob Nerney, Town Planner, met to figure out the most optimal route for the Horseshoe Pond section of the Norwalk River Valley Trail. He reported that they have suggested to continue the trail where the existing walkway exists. The commissioners asked about the steep slope in that location. Mr. Conklin confirmed they will bring in fill to lift the area up a bit and lessen the slope. He also confirmed the Rotary Adopt-A-Spot site will remain as is.

Mr. Conklin noted that Dorel Sports, the parent company of Cannondale bikes, is holding a work day on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to assist with the maintenance and clean-up at Horseshoe Park. He confirmed that any of the commissioners can attend if they wish to remove dead and overgrown shrubs on the banks of the pond. In addition, there will be a dumpster, a weed whacker and the rebuilding of the dilapidated bench near the parking circle. Mr. Conklin confirmed he would be present for the work day and he asked that commissioners come up with other “shovel ready” projects that can be assigned to these organizations that hold these events in the future.

Mr. Simone stated that he was contacted by a friend who recently walked on the Eastern Loop of the Norwalk River Valley Trail who was disturbed by the amount of dog waste bags that are full and left on the trail. He asked why there is no place to dispense or drop dog waste on the NRVT. Mr. Conklin advised that the NRVT is carry in what you carry out and they have nobody to service these stations on the trail. Mr. Berg stated that Cranberry Park in Norwalk, which also includes a dog park, has a bin where visitors can bring extra dog waste bags for all to use. Mr. Conklin stated the building of a bin at Schenck’s Island would be a great Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Conklin stated that the pot holes on the Quarry Head driveway have been fixed thanks to the generous donation of Terri Goodwin. He also mentioned that Ms. Merrill held a picnic lunch for Terri Goodwin to thank her for all of the assistance she has provided the town in the upkeep of this park. Mr. Conklin stated they are working with an Eagle Scout at Quarry Head who is going to replant the center of the circle with native plants donated by Towne & Country. Mr. Conklin also advised that he is working with Rick Parisot to rebuild the dam at this site with the cost being donated by the neighbors and Terri Goodwin.

## **B. Conservation Activity Log Updates**

**Quarry Head Trail Consolidation** – Ms. Merrill had nothing additional to report.

**Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan** – Ms. Merrill stated that she and the committee have an objective to break down the management into smaller areas that will

each include a planting plan and funding. A discussion ensued regarding the large tree that fell near the Lavaty property into the pond. Mr. Conklin stated that he has been in touch with Mr. Lavaty who is obtaining quotes to remove the tree. Mr. Conklin stated that he may want to drain the pond, let the muck freeze and drag the tree across the pond for cutting and removal.

**Park Walks** – Ms. Algon had nothing additional to report.

**Carry In/Carry Out Initiative** – Mr. Berg stated that a good Scout project would be to create a “Carry In, Carry Out” sign.

**GIS Trail Maps for Walkers Guide** – Mr. Berg stated there was nothing new to report.

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

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. DiLoreto stated nothing is new except for a shared watering schedule amongst the members. Ms. Algon stated that she was in contact with Liz Craig of the Garden Club and there is a program where purchase and planting of an oak tree on public property will result in a \$2,000 award. Ms. Algon stated there may be funding left over from a grant to plant trees near Allen’s Meadows.
- ii. Deer Committee – Ms. Merrill stated the hunt is ongoing. Mr. Conklin reported that 12 deer have been harvested so far.
- iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill stated there was nothing new to report.

### **D. Regional Projects**

- i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership – Ms. Merrill reported that the Hudson 2 Housatonic initiative is going well.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Fall Newsletter** – Mr. Conklin stated that three articles have been received and asked that the remaining articles be submitted to Ms. Larkin.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day** – Mr. Conklin stated that the coordination of the event is going well with the assistance of Ms. Larkin.

**Open Positions on Commission** – Mr. Berg confirmed he reached out to the Democratic and Republican Committee Chairs to get the open positions filled.

## **VIII. LIAISON REPORT**

Mr. Berg was the liaison for September and reported there were no conservation related applications, so he did not attend any meetings.

Ms. Algon is the liaison for the month of October. The commission asked that any Conservation Memo’s that are provided to an applicant are provided to the liaison prior

to attending the meeting.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/2/15**

Ms. Algon MOVED to APPROVE the meeting minutes as revised, SECONDED by Ms. Diloreto, and CARRIED 5-0-0.

**XII. ADJOURN – Mr. Berg MOVED to adjourn at 8:55pm, SECONDED by Mr. Simone, and CARRIED 5-0-0.**

Next meeting will be November 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs