

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY June 3, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Donna Merrill, Jackie Algon, Susan DiLoreto, Frank Simone
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst; Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs
- III. ABSENT: Dan Berg (notified of intended absence)
- IV. CALL TO ORDER – Acting Chairman Merrill called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.
- V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

A. WET#2322(S) LINDQUIST – 658 Danbury Road – renovate and expand an existing building located within an upland review area to allow automotive sales and service facility

Mr. Conklin confirmed that the building additions are proposed over existing asphalt and the additional parking required for this type of business will be added to the existing lawn area. He confirmed the plan includes stormwater infiltrators that will provide underground stormwater detention.

Ms. Diloreto asked about the previous use of the building. Mr. Conklin responded this was apparently a CL&P building that housed equipment and an area for truck maintenance. Ms. Algon asked if the building additions would be placed on top of the asphalt and Mr. Conklin confirmed that they would dig up the asphalt and add footings to the new structures. Ms. Merrill stated she would like to institute a requirement to have layers added to protect the buffer zone for town projects so that we can more closely regulate the activities. Ms. Diloreto suggested asking for a larger buffer. Mr. Conklin noted that the area is already wooded. Ms. Diloreto confirmed the report to wetlands should include a statement about the value of the Norwalk River.

B. WET#2321(S) JT CONSTRUCTION – 21 Lee Allen Lane – remove existing dwelling and construct new house with underground drainage and a pool within an upland review area

Mr. Conklin confirmed the existing house will be knocked down and the site will be redeveloped. He highlighted the wetlands and showed the commission how the

natural slope of the property keeps the flow of stormwater away from the wetlands. Mr. Conklin confirmed the woods consist of invasive species understory shrubs with a mature forest canopy layer. He made a suggestion that the underground infiltrator be pulled up, out of the regulated area to the east in order to keep the development improvements contained in a smaller space. He noted that about seven large trees are shown on the plan as being removed and there is a good pitch for the septic system. The commission consensus is that this is a small footprint and the property will be better maintained with the new home as there have been issues with maintenance in the past.

C. WET#2320(S) JACKSON – 58 Carriage Road – additions to residence and B100a

Mr. Conklin described where the additions and the reserve septic are being proposed. The only comment from the commission is to preserve as many trees as possible on the site.

D. WET#2317(S) TOWN OF WILTON – 217 Wolfpit Road – construction of additions and alterations to Miller Driscoll School

Mr. Conklin stated the man-made pond wetland on the property has a stormwater renovation function and is far from the proposed activities. Conklin described the proposal and pointed out the wetlands on the site plan. He explained there will be some repaving with some reconfiguration of the parking areas and the addition of a bioswale infiltration system. Fill will be brought on to the site to level the steep grading in the rear of the building. The gross square footage of the building is being reduced from 130,000 to 127,900.

The commissioners discussed the need for native plantings as there are some non-natives noted on the plan. The commission suggested replacing the proposed non-native plants on the site with native species creating biodiversity with shrubby areas for birds and pollinators.

VI. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None

VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Parks Reports – Mr. Conklin confirmed that there is an upcoming work day organized by the Wilton Land Trust where Nielson will work in Schenck’s Island. He is going to ask that they erect the dog waste signs that were recently purchased.

Mr. Conklin confirmed that Dave Francefort built a bridge in the Town Forest off the Boulder Brook entrance to fix an area that is chronically wet so that the trail braiding will cease. The bridge is 12 feet in length and Mr. Francefort volunteered for this job. Mr. Conklin also noted that two trees across the trail were removed by this volunteer.

Ms. Algon confirmed she walked Vista Park and took some pictures of hanging branches she indicated would be sent to Mr. Conklin.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Quarry Head Trail Consolidation – Mr. Conklin confirmed he is working to schedule time with Mr. Francefort to work on this project. He also described the paving work that has

been donated by Terri Goodwin. Ms. Merrill asked Mr. Conklin to take pictures before and after the paving to create another PowerPoint presentation for Mrs. Goodwin as she really enjoyed this last time. Ms. Merrill offered to send a thank you note to Mrs. Goodwin for her gift.

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Ms. Merrill confirmed the Horseshoe Pond Committee met on May 27th. She stated that Anne Deware is the lead person organizing neighbors and there will be a work day on June 7th to remove vines. Mr. Conklin noted that Chip-Away is scheduled to clear the southern area of dead and damaged limbs on June 11, 2015.

Ms. Merrill also noted there is an event at Marley's on Monday, June 8th where tips and donations are given to the Horseshoe Pond fund. In addition, Jeff Lavaty is raffling off a painting he created and all proceeds will benefit the pond.

Park Walks - Ms. Algon reported that she is going to see the upcoming Pesticide Free New Canaan talk to see if the speaker would benefit Wilton in the future.

Mr. Conklin stated that he spoke to the President at the River Ridge complex about the idea of getting those residents to rally others to take pride about Bradley Park.

Ms. Algon added that she will need to schedule walks in the fall based on what parks are not being hunted and/or closed.

Carry In/Carry Out Initiative – nothing new to report

GIS Trail Maps for Walkers Guide – nothing new to report

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. Tree Committee – Ms. DiLoreto stated there was nothing new to report.
- ii. Deer Committee – The 2015 Hunt Plan was provided to each of the commissioners. Ms. Merrill noted the three parks that will not be hunted this year due to a low success rate from 2014: Cherry Lane, Bradley Park, and the Charter Oak property. She noted that Sackett Preserve is on the list of hunted properties.

Ms. Merrill reminded the commission that any park that notes a “hard close” means that there is no resident access during the hunting season to ensure the deer patterns are not disturbed. She also confirmed that the State has just passed a law that allows bow hunting on Sundays which will improve the harvest for 2015. She indicated the final harvest from the State show 174 deer.

Mr. Simone asked why the hunt is still taking place with the low harvest numbers year after year. He was hesitant to approve the hunt in the town owned parks

without the data as many items were listed as N/A. Ms. Merrill stated she would try to get this data for the next meeting.

Ms. Algon MOVED to APPROVE hunting on the town owned properties, once all available data is received, SECONDED by Ms. Diloreto and CARRIED 4-0-0.

iii. Land Trust – Ms. Merrill stated there was nothing new to report.

D. Regional Projects

i. Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership – Ms. Merrill brought the map that the FCRCP has created to show current open space and potential new open space with 11 layers of data to produce an overall strategic plan for analyzing open space areas.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS - None

IX. LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Merrill reported that she attended meetings in May. She attended a Planning and Zoning Meeting where the project at 31 Old Danbury Road was discussed. She explained that the sewer was upgraded and the stone walls will be preserved. She indicated the site is one acre but there is some parking that will remain on town property.

Mr. Simone is the liaison for June.

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 5/6/15

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

XI. ADJOURN – Ms. Diloreto MOVED to adjourn at 9:19pm, SECONDED by Mr. Simone, and CARRIED 4-0-0.

Next meeting will be July 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs