

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

PRESENT: Commissioners: Dave Hapke, Nick Lee, Patrice Gillespie, Kim Young, Kristen Begor, Christopher Coyle

NOT PRESENT: Kate Throckmorton (Noticed of absence)

ALSO

PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs, Bruce Hampson, Karen DeSantis

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Begor called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS –

1. WET#1891(S) – GOUDIS – reconfigure a driveway and shed in a regulated area at 21 Trails End Road.

Patricia Sesto reviewed the proposed site plan to rework the existing driveway and relocate the existing guardhouse.

She described the desire to remove five shade trees at least 12 inches in diameter and others under 12 inches in diameter. She continued to say that the existing stone wall would be removed and replaced with a brick wall for cosmetic reasons.

Dave Hapke inquired as to how much of the project was in the regulated area.

Ms. Sesto stated that the entire project is in the regulated area.

Nick Lee commented that the shade trees were located on the north side of the wetland and the removal of the trees would not impact the wetlands.

Ms. Sesto reviewed the proposed planting plan and she felt that the plan was substantial, but noted there were no major shade trees listed.

A discussion ensued concerning the logistics of constructing the proposed brick wall and the Commission concluded that there was not enough information to understand the process.

Chairman Begor suggested more information detailing the project be submitted.

The Commission had no other comments.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

Chairman Begor scrambled the agenda.

1. Work with other Commissions/Committees

Patrice Gillespie introduced Bruce Hampson, resident, member of the Wilton Energy Commission and Chairman of the Building Commission.

Ms. Gillespie reviewed documents that had been distributed to the Commission for the ICLE and the US Conference of Mayors. She suggested that the Commission consider participating with either organization and draft a resolution to track the town carbon foot print and to state a goal to reduce the emissions.

Mr. Hapke asked Ms. Gillespie who was responsible for completing the inventory included with the commitment and specifically what would the Conservation Commission be expected to do.

Bruce Hampson offered information describing the ICLE plan. He added that the Energy Commission is favoring joining the ICLE which requires an annual membership fee of \$600.00. He felt that the carbon footprint would be the first commitment that would likely be instituted and there has been no consensus at this point. He briefly described the involvement and depth of commitment that would be required.

Mr. Hampson suggested that the Energy Commission would take on the task but felt that the Conservation Commission would be a desirable partner on the project.

Mr. Lee suggested passing the idea by the First Selectman if the Commission chose to take on the project.

Chairman Begor asked Ms. Gillespie if the ICLE organization would be the right choice as opposed to the US Conference of Mayors.

Ms. Gillespie felt that the ICLE, which is international, provides more support and the US Conference of Mayors in referenced within the ICLE document.

Chairman Begor suggested the possibility of participating with both organizations.

Ms. Gillespie thought that participating with both organizations may become confusing, at least initially.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Hampson suggested meeting with the Energy Commission to discuss the possibility of

drafting a resolution and commitment and the idea of the two commissions participating jointly.

2. Parks - All

Ms. Sesto reviewed Mike Conklin's report submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Sesto reported that Quarry Head/Harrison Smith has been adopted by a committee of 2012 graduating students (in memory of Nick Parisot) for projects to maintain the park.

Ms. Sesto reported that there is a serious safety issue with the lack of maintenance of the driveway and asked the Commission what action should be taken.

A discussion to place a sign and or posts and chain to deter traffic ensued.

The Commission decided to seek a donation from a local landscaper to plow the driveway before making a decision.

3. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Nothing to report.

4. Plan of Conservation and Development – Throckmorton

Ms. Throckmorton was not available to report.

5. Center Tree Plan – Sesto, Lee, Throckmorton

Ms. Sesto reported that the Tree Committee has partnered with the City of Norwalk, Norwalk's Tree Alliance, and the Wilton Garden Club for the annual Tree Festival, which will be held on May 16th at Cranbury Park in Norwalk.

Mr. Lee described some of the activities that will be going on and stated that it will be the third year for the festival.

Ms. Sesto reviewed the spring planting schedule for the trees that had been donated to the Wilton Center Tree Plan.

6. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Mr. Hapke updated the Commission on the New Canaan Recycling program and how Wilton could make recycling easily accessible for residents.

Mr. Hapke reported that Tom Thurkettle, Director of DPW presented a draft plan to Bill Brennan, First Selectman. He continued by saying that there will be a meeting scheduled to review the plan. The goal is to implement the plan July 1st and communication to the public starting June 1st.

Kim Young inquired about CFL's.

Mr. Hapke described New Canaan's process and said that Tom Thurkettle had agreed to follow suit, but it hasn't happened yet.

7. River Walk – Hapke, Coyle

Chris Coyle reported that he, Ms. Sesto, and Mr. Hapke had had a meeting last month.

A discussion of the possibility to acquire easements for the walk took place.

Mr. Lee said that he would try to contact the Pearsall family before the next meeting to see if there is an opportunity to gain their cooperation behind the Village Market.

Chairman Begor suggested mapping the existing easements.

8. Work with other Commissions/Committees
 - a. Parks and Rec./Allen's Meadows – Young

Kim Young reported that there hasn't been any success yet in getting the First Selectman's approval to spend money to repair bridges and maintain at Allen's Meadow. She stated that the First Selectman had agreed to have the dump piles removed and that Parks and Rec. would clean up some of the trails.

- b. Energy Commission

Previously discussed.

9. Regional Projects

- a. Deer Management – Sesto

Ms. Sesto reported that the Deer Committee has not met since the Fall and she felt that the Committee may be coming to an end and that Conservation may be taking back the responsibility. She reported that the harvest was low (approx. 80) this year and in other areas of Connecticut. She stated that the season ended January 31st.

- b. Water Quality & Quantity – Gillespie

Ms. Gillespie updated the Commission on the goose idling program through the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative.

Ms. Sesto announced that there will be a training session here in the Annex meeting room on February 24th at 1:00 p.m..

10. Website – Gillespie

No new information.

11. Donations

No new information

12. Other

The Commission approved the draft Liaison Schedule for 2009.

The schedule is as follows:

January	Christopher Coyle	July	Patrice Gillespie
February	Kate Throckmorton	August	Nick Lee
March	Kim Young	September	Kim Young
April	Dave Hapke	October	Kristen Begor
May	Kristen Begor	November	Dave Hapke
June	Nick Lee	December	Kate Throckmorton

Alternates: Christopher Coyle
Patrice Gillespie

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Spring Newsletter

The Commission agreed to submit articles on the following subjects; transfer station (Hapke), recycling Q&A (Begor and Hapke), greenhouse gas emissions (Gillespie), Tree Festival (Sesto), with electronics recycling and a Quarry Head profile as room allows,.

VI. LIASON REPORT

Mr. Coyle reported the applications from the Inland Wetland meeting in January.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Sesto stated that the traffic in the office has slowed way down and that the amount of applications has significantly dropped. She said that she and Mike Conklin are working on putting together projects that they would normally be too busy for and asked if there were any thing in particular that the Commission would like to focus on.

Ms. Sesto reported that there had been the issue of the existing leash ordinance and that it will basically remain the same.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12/3/08

Nick Lee MOTIONED to approve the minute of 12/3/08 seconded by Dave Hapke and carried 6-0-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Young MOTIONED to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Begor and carried 6-0-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen DeSantis
Recording Secretary