

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY July 1, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

PRESENT: Commissioners: , Nick Lee, Kim Young and, Patrice Gillespie and Christopher Coyle

NOT PRESENT: Kate Throckmorton, Kristen Begor and Dave Hapke (Noticed of absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director Enviromental Affairs; Karen DeSantis, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kim Young called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS –

Ms. Sesto reported that WET# 1898, 20 Riding Club Road is still pending and that a neighbor has submitted a "Verified Petition of Intervention," and that neighbor expressed concerns that the new driveway will undermine the row of mature Norway spruces. She explained that the intervention did not expand the jurisdiction of the commission and if the neighbor did not draw the connection between the trees and the wetland the IWC could do little to protect them.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Parks - All

Mike Conklin's staff report dated July 1, 2009 was reviewed by the Commission.

Ms. Sesto reported that the volunteer mountain bikers have been doing an excellent job improving the Town Forest and then summarized the improvements at Sackett Preserve and Quarry Head.

Nick Lee reported the status of the work being done at Quarry Head and Harrison Smith Preserve.

2. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Nick Lee MOTIONED to go into Executive Session, SECONDED by Kim Young and carried 4-0-0.

3. Plan of Conservation and Development – Throckmorton

Ms. Sesto reported that the Conservation comments were submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission

and seemed to be well received. She added that the next public hearing is scheduled for October.

Mr. Lee reported that the bike trail and river walk proposal was not well received by some of the commissioners but felt that overall the comments were well received and commended Planemetrics for their services as consultants.

4. Center Tree Plan – Sesto, Lee, Throckmorton

Mr. Lee and Ms. Sesto reported that 12 trees have been planted to date and that a fund and protocol for replacement of dead trees that were planted should be set up for the future.

5. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Ms. Sesto announced that today was the first day for the electronic recycling at the transfer station.

6. River Walk – Hapke, Coyle

Ms. Sesto reported that she had met with Dan Landau, representative for the Norwalk River Valley Trail, and he expressed his interest in partnering with Wilton to pursue the river walk plan. She explained that it may be wiser to consider the trail away from the river in the town center and connect with the existing sidewalks. Mr. Landau is seeking permission from the DOT to access on state property south of Wolfpit Road. A notable hurdle will be the need to cross the railroad tracks.

Patrice Gillespie added that Bill Brennan has expressed interest in partnering with neighboring towns for a green way.

7. Work with other Commissions/Committees

a. Parks and Rec./Allen's Meadows – Young

Kim Young stated that there was nothing to report.

b. Energy Commission

Patrice Gillespie reported that a long range energy plan is in process.

8. Regional Projects

a. Deer Management – Sesto

Ms. Sesto had nothing to report and suggested that the Commission considered the disbandment of the Deer Committee.

A discussion ensued.

The Commission agreed to disband the Deer Committee if the Deer Committee desires this.

Ms. Sesto reported that the Deer Alliance is waiting on a UCONN study of the costs associated with the deer population that should be available at the end of the summer.

b. Water Quality & Quantity – Gillespie

Ms. Gillespie reported that Dick Harris of HarborWatch/RiverWatch presented data collected by Wilton High

School students.

Ms. Gillespie announced that the Housatonic Valley Regional Planning Agency chose to take the Bennett Farm off of the Open Space list and expressed her disappointment.

9. Website – Gillespie

Nothing to report.

10. Other

Ms. Sesto reminded the Commission to think of topics for the fall newsletter.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. LIASON REPORT

Nick Lee reported on the two Inland Wetland meeting and two Planning and Zoning meetings, Conservation and Development meetings he attended.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Sesto stated that most topics have already been discussed but reported that Ridgefield had a medical waste collection day co-sponsored by a local pharmaceutical company, Boehringer Ingelheim. This alliance allowed Ridgefield to overcome the myriad of hurdles associated with medical waste collections. She went on to stress the value of this program both to the environment and young people, noting the ongoing problem with prescription drug abuse among students

Ms. Gillespie asked if Wilton would be able to participate at the next collection.

Ms. Sesto agreed to inquire about Wilton participating in the next collection at Ridgefield.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 5/6/09

Nick Lee MOTIONED to approve the minute of 5/6/09 seconded by Patrice Gillespie and carried 4-0-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Nick Lee MOTIONED to adjourn, seconded by Patrice Gillespie and carried 4-0-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Padowicz
Recording Secretary