

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL - MEETING ROOM "B"

PRESENT: Commissioners: Kate Throckmorton, Kristen Begor, Patrice Gillespie and Christopher Coyle

NOT PRESENT: Nick Lee, Kim Young and Dave Hapke (Noticed of absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Patricia Sesto, Director Environmental Affairs; Karen Padowicz, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Begor called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS – None

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Parks - All

Mike Conklin's staff report dated September 2, 2009 was reviewed by the Commission.

Ms. Sesto reported that overgrown field at the Sackett Preserve had been cleared at the end of June. Parks and Recreation then mowed the front field fairly recently, to which a neighbor with knowledge in field management, expressed dismay stating that the mowing was done too early.

The Commission expressed appreciation of the outcome of the clearing and mowing.

2. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Ms. Sesto reported that the Keiser property appraisals are being revised.

3. Plan of Conservation and Development – Throckmorton

Ms. Throckmorton reported that the draft is available to review on the town website and the next scheduled public hearing is October 5, 2009. She requested that Ms. Sesto recirculate the comments previously submitted to the Commissioners and welcomed more comments.

4. Center Tree Plan – Sesto, Lee, Throckmorton

Ms. Throckmorton reported that all the trees that were scheduled to be planted were and the only planting this fall will be replacements of the two dead/dying trees.

5. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Chairman Begor reported that the program started on July 15th and there are some logistical issues that still need to be worked on. Chairman Begor and Dave Hapke worked with Jennifer Fascitelli from DPW to write the next set of Q&A for the newsletter. She added that Jennifer is quite knowledgeable and has been extremely helpful.

6. River Walk – Hapke, Coyle

Ms. Sesto described the means by which our effort for a riverwalk has morphed into a 4-town greenway project. The first selectmen of Ridgefield, Redding and Wilton have met and are unified in their support of a greenway trail, utilizing the Super 7 corridor for the most part. Norwalk has joined the project as well. Ms. Sesto reported that she had submitted a CT DEP Recreational Trail Program grant application yesterday. She anticipates that the grant would be issued in the spring if approved.

The Commission reviewed and approved a draft letter to be submitted to the DEP in support of the grant application. Ms. Gillespie offered to deliver the signed copy to staff the next day.

7. Work with other Commissions/Committees

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

Kim Young was not in attendance to comment.

Ms. Gillespie stated that Luke Tiller was planning to offer a bird walk to observe the migration and suggested that it be included in the fall newsletter. The bird walk will be held to call attention to climate change in conjunction with the "360" project.

b. Energy Commission

Patrice Gillespie reported that the energy plan is in process and should be completed in a few months.

8. Regional Projects

a. Deer Management – Sesto

Ms. Sesto had nothing to report on the Alliance. She stated she spoke at a meeting in Fairfield and there was police presence to keep the peace.

b. Water Quality & Quantity – Gillespie

Nothing to report.

9. Website – Gillespie

The Commission discussed feedback concerning the town website and asked Ms. Sesto to report the information to John Savarese. Comments offered to the commissioners indicate that the home page is too crowded.

10. Newsletter - Fall

Ms. Padowicz stated that the articles were due September 1st and had received one article so far.

The topics discussed were recycling, trees, carbon footprint, guest corner, bird walk and Norwalk River Valley Trail.

11. Other

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sesto reported that she had met with one of the hunters earlier in the day and has a scheduled meeting with some of the hunters and Deer Committee members on the 3rd.

Ms. Sesto asked the Commission for permission to hunt the same properties as last year and to add the Keiser and Rice properties off Sharp Hill Road. If other new properties are desired, she will bring that to the commission in October for consideration.

Chairman Begor MOTIONED to maintain existing properties for the Hunt with the addition of the Keiser and Rice properties, SECONDED by Kate Throckmorton and carried 4-0-0.

VI. LIASON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie reported that the Lin wetlands application at 20 Riding Club Road had closed and will be reviewed at future meetings. She continued to report that Planning and Zoning discussed POCD which included clear cutting trees.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 7/1/09

Kate Throckmorton MOTIONED to approve the minute of 7/1/09 seconded by Kristen Begor and carried 4-0-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Kristen Begor MOTIONED to adjourn, seconded by Patrice Gillespie and carried 4-0-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Padowicz
Recording Secretary