

**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, May 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chair Mary Heffernon, Carl Arsenault, Jeff Borne, John Lathrop, Dianne Lendler, Jared McQueen, Mike Miller, Brad Sammis, Dianne Saunders, and Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner.

Chair Heffernon called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Commissioner Miller to approve the Minutes with the following amendments: 7H should read "Agricultural Science Student Project" and the second line under that heading should read "green", not pink; seconded by Commissioner Lathrop and approved unanimously as amended.**

**2. Property Management**

A. Tyler Mill Preserve

1. Tyler Mill will re-open on May 25. A few hazards are left to clear, some trail blockages remain in Bertini Park, and some new signage will be installed. *Ms. O'Hare will follow-up with Parks & Recreation Department on coordinating signage installation activities.*

2. The Stewards have remained busy clearing trails and will do re-blazing on the trails where necessary.

3. Professional Services

It was agreed Fields 7E and 7F are too wet to mow. The Water Division has asked to spray the knotweed at the Northford Rd. entrance to Tyler Mill before the end of June, but Commissioners agreed that it is too early in the season to be effective. Commissioners discussed that it would be a more helpful use of Water Division efforts to repeatedly mow the mugwort on Field 7E, Northford Rd. that appeared in the area disturbed by work activities a few years ago. *Ms. O'Hare will follow-up with the Water Division.*

**On a Motion by Commissioner Borne, seconded by Commissioner Lathrop, Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize Ms. O'Hare to spend approximately \$2,000 on services by Michael Klemens to begin assessing the changes that have taken place in Tyler Mill Preserve since the May 15, 2018 microburst, and what their impact might be for the future of the Preserve.**

B. Fresh Meadows

1. Commissioners Arsenault, Lathrop and Heffernon have cleared the treefalls off of Tessa's Trail. *They will arrange a time to blaze this trail.*

2. Trees of Heaven eradication

*Commissioners Arsenault and Saunders will cut and treat these trees at the appropriate time.*

3. Trail edge mowing bid proposal

Commissioner Saunders reported that Eric Hansen has given her some information about possible mowers.

*Ms. O'Hare will write the 3-year bid proposal for the trail edge mowing at Fresh Meadows and will inquire about how to insure satisfactory performance in the bid document.*

C. Property Monitoring

Commissioner Sammis reported that there is some litter along the street of the 205 Main St., Yalesville property, some invasives on the property, and minor damage to the name sign.

Commissioner Heffernon reported on the abundance of wildflowers at Ferguson Woods in April, and the presence of a camera nailed to a tree. The camera will be reported to the Police Department.

Regarding Doolittle Park, Ms. O'Hare reported that there are lots of invasives growing along the bank, the mowing extends to about five feet from the top of bank, no channel erosion of note, and no other issues.

*Commissioner Borne will email his report on Fresh Meadows to Commission members shortly.*

*Commissioners McQueen and Saunders will report on Marcus Cooke and Tyler Mill at the June meeting, and Commissioner Lendler will email her reports on 1254 Whirlwind Hill Rd. and Whirlwind Hill/Scard Rds. to Commission members as she will be absent from the June meeting.*

#### D. Mattebessett Trail/National Scenic Trail

Documents regarding proposed trail relocation work submitted by Clare Cain, CT Forest & Park Association, were distributed.

**On a motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner McQueen, Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the CT Forest & Park Association's relocation plan for the Mattabesett/New England Trail access off of Howd Rd., pending a botanist's check of possible wildflowers located on the proposed relocation site and the approval of the Water Division.**

### **3. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

#### A. Field 18A, 995C East Center St./Tamarac Swamp Rd.

*Ms. O'Hare will follow-up on this proposed bid waiver.*

#### B. Proposed bid for Field 8B, Northford Rd

*Ms. O'Hare will follow-up on getting the bid out.*

#### C. Review of Leases for Periodic Reporting

*Commissioner Saunders will highlight the leases to indicate jobs that need to be done periodically.*

The above tasks have not yet been done.

#### D. Farmland Committee

*Commissioner Saunders will ask Emily Picard if the Lyman Hall Agricultural students will do the soil testing on Field 4C, Whirlwind Hill Road. Ms. O'Hare will see if Little K's is interested in mowing this field.*

*Commissioners Arsenault and Saunders will check 1240 Whirlwind Hill Rd. to see if the field should be mowed or allowed to revert to early successional habitat.*

### **4. Budget FY 19-20**

#### Town Council Budget Workshop – Council Chambers, Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

This meeting was canceled by the Town Council.

### **5. Executive Session pursuant to CT General Statutes Sections 1-225(f) and 200(6)(D) regarding real estate**

**Motion by Commissioner Lathrop to move into Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Sammis and voted approved unanimously.**

The Commission entered Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.

**Motion by Commissioner Lathrop to move out of Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Sammis and voted approved unanimously.**

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:31 p.m.

**6. Other Topics**

A. Open Space User's Group Meeting

The agenda for the meeting to take place at 5:30 on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Parks & Recreation Department was reviewed.

B. Audubon CT Urban Oases Program

Commissioner Heffernon reported that she did not get to discuss the Urban Oasis program with John Gawlak, Director, prior to his retirement from the Parks & Recreation Department.

*Commissioner Heffernon will discuss the plans for the pocket park on Grand St. with the Parks & Recreation Commission to see if this might be a good site for this program.*

C. Ethics Training

Commissioners were all reminded that we are to report to mandatory ethics training in the Town Council Chambers in Town Hall on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

D. Choate Rosemary Hall Sustainability Initiative

Students from CRH completed a project with Commission members last year at Fresh Meadows.

The program will take place again this year on October 4<sup>th</sup>. *Commissioners were asked to think of possible projects.*

**7. Reports/Correspondence**

A. - B. Programs & Newsletters

Programs and newsletters of interest were discussed.

C. QRWA River Clean-up

The Wallingford clean-up was very successful, with about 15 volunteers, including Terri Arsenault and members and leaders of her Girl Scout Troop.

A thank you note from Quinnipiac University for the Commission's participation in this year's Big Event was shared with Commissioners.

*Ms. O'Hare asked that anyone looking for reimbursements submit them to her ASAP.*

**8. Next Meeting – June 13, 2019**

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion by Commissioner Sammis to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Borne and voted approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary J. Heffernon*