

**Final / Approved**

**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, September 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

**Pavilion, Marcus Cooke Park  
9 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT**

Note: The September 10, 2020, Regular Meeting in Town Hall was cancelled and a Special Meeting was held outdoors at Marcus Cooke Park due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Present:** Vice Chair John Lathrop, Commissioners Jared McQueen, Jeffrey Borne, Dianne Saunders, Brad Sammis and Environmental Planner Erin O’Hare. Commissioner Mike Miller arrived as noted below.

**Absent:** Chair Mary Heffernon and Commissioners Carl Arsenault and Dianne Lendler.

Vice Chair Lathrop called this Special Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Special Meeting, August 13, 2020**

Corrections were made by Commissioner Saunders as follows:

p. 2, at 3.A.2., to correct the third sentence to say: “Commissioner Saunders said a tree fell on the wide-plank bridge by the yellow house near Woodhouse Avenue and it is partly in the water.”

p. 2, at 3.A.3., paragraph 2, to delete the second sentence, “It may need loppers.” And to rephrase the fourth sentence to start with “*Ms. O’Hare will call the contractor to have it treated . . .*”

p. 4, at 6.C after the Motion, to change “a Vo-Ag student project” to “a Lyman Hall Agricultural Science student’s project”.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sammis to accept the August 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes as amended; Seconded by Commissioner McQueen, and approved unanimously.**

**2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

**A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

1. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report, D. Saunders & D. Lendler

Commissioner Saunders sent members and staff an e-mail today about cutting trees in Tyler Mill. Also, the weedwacker burned out. Commissioner Saunders suggested additional tools needed would be: a pole pruner with an interior chain for lopping and cutting at about \$80.00 and a battery-powered string trimmer at about \$250.00. The trimmer is needed for cutting herbaceous growth. Ms. O’Hare suggested purchasing a battery-powered cutter tool.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Borne to spend up to \$400.00 for two tools, a pole pruner with an interior chain and a battery-powered string trimmer or cutter tool; Seconded by Commissioner Sammis, and approved unanimously.**

2. Storm damage – See after 3, below.

3. Other reports

Commissioner Saunders said that Chair Heffernon remarked about securing the fall mower rental to clear trails here and elsewhere. The rental cost is to come from the Open Space Resources Management Fund. *Ms. O'Hare will follow up.*

Commissioner Saunders proposed that the Commission should fund first aid supply kits for the Commissioners and the Stewards to share. Three persons lately at Tyler Mill Preserve have needed simple first aid supplies. She recommended two basic kits with duplicates of the usual supplies and two small trauma kits with emergency supplies for someone with a more severe injury.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sammis to buy and outfit these first aid kits. There was no seconder, and Commissioner Sammis withdrew his Motion.**

This item was tabled so Commissioner Saunders can ask Commissioner Miller's advice on kit contents.

2. Storm damage

Chair Heffernon had asked Vice Chair Lathrop to look at remaining Storm Isaias damage from August at Bertini Park trails. Vice Chair Lathrop had marked a Bertini Park map where a big tree fell and numerous logs need to be trimmed near the trails. He gave that map to Commissioner Saunders.

Commissioner Miller arrived at 6:30 p.m.

As to Tyler Mill Preserve, Commissioner Saunders saw a big tree down on the breakout trail going north, and branches are over the Pink Trail. Stewards' work parties will be in there soon. *Commissioners agreed to spray the Japanese knotweed at the Tyler Mill Preserve entrance next year as it was too late for this season.*

## **B. Fresh Meadows**

1. Plant installations – report

Ms. O'Hare said the new plants at the Butterfly Loop are doing all right with the watering program through the drought. The Butterfly bush has not lost leaves, but it did stop growing for a period of time. Deer have damaged some plants, which is being addressed with pellets and plant spray to deter deer.

2. Trees by glacial erratic

*Commissioner Arsenault will have a report soon.*

3. Addition of name on Town Open Space property signage

Ms. O'Hare showed a mock-up of sign with "Fresh Meadows" added by New England Carvers. Commissioners were pleased and talked about how to display it. They agreed to center this new panel above the Town Open Space main sign, which will be moved down about 5 inches to accommodate it. *Ms. O'Hare will purchase sign and ask Public Works to install it.*

#### 4. Graffiti

Commissioner Borne said nothing has been done about graffiti on the rock. Ms. O'Hare reported that Parks and Recreation did paint the back of the north parking lot entrance sign plus the metal guardrail nearby.

Commissioner Borne stated the need to clear trees down over Tessa's Trail. *Ms. O'Hare will ask Public Works to follow up about the household junk and cut trees to be removed from the knoll.*

#### C. Marcus Cooke – trail clean-up

Chair Heffernon had told Commissioner Saunders about more trees over the trail here. *Commissioner McQueen said he would complete his survey of trail blockages and E-mail a map of their locations in a few days.*

#### D. 205 Main Street Open Space property

##### 1. Encroachment

*Ms. O'Hare said she will return to see this property.*

##### 2. Repair of Town open space property signage

Commissioner Sammis reported that some portions are missing from the main name sign. Ms. O'Hare had already obtained a repair quote of approximately \$150.00. *The Commissioners' consensus was to authorize Ms. O'Hare to have the sign repaired for up to \$150.00. Also, Commissioner Sammis said he will trim foliage away from this sign.*

#### E. Beseck Meadows

##### 1. Encroachment – No report.

##### 2. Bamboo – encroachment & management

Commissioners advised that the bamboo should be cut and sprayed at the end of September or into the beginning of October. *Ms. O'Hare will ask Public Works to do this.*

#### F. Other properties

##### 1. Other

Ms. O'Hare said a property owner had called asking about a Town Open Space marker posted adjacent to her lawn on Town Open Space property, 30 Ridgenoll Road. There is a ravine with a stream and the property goes over to Jodi Drive. The subdivision dates from the mid-1950s. *Ms. O'Hare will inquire with the Engineering Department to verify location of the Town line here.*

### 3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM

**A. Farmland Lease Committee**

1. Bid proposals: Fields 5A, 7A, & 8B

Ms. O’Hare said there is no report.

2. Field 7A, Northford Rd. – hunter parking proposal & vehicle trespass issue  
Public Works has not responded yet regarding inspection of site for the pull-off.

3. Several fields – compliance with lease terms

*This month, Ms. O’Hare will invite a problem lessee to come in and discuss lease compliance with herself, Commissioner Saunders, and Commissioner Miller.*

**4. PUBLIC EVENTS – History Hike in Tyler Mill Preserve – June 2021**

Commissioner Saunders suggested a Saturday in early June with a rain date of Sunday. *Commissioner Saunders will communicate with the State Archeologist, Sara Sportman, who could join on the hike, and confirm a date.*

**5. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. QRLT Student project, “QLRT Moveable Gallery”**

Ms. O’Hare described the Lyman Hall Agricultural Science student’s project wherein on a regular basis she will post at the kiosk art related to the Trail’s flora and fauna. The Commissioners unanimously endorsed this project.

Commissioner Saunders reported she referred two Eagle Scout project proposals to Parks and Recreation Department, who may be able to advise on those.

**B. CACIWC – membership dues**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Borne to authorize Ms. O’Hare to pay CACIWC annual membership dues of \$75.00; Seconded by Commissioner Miller, and approved unanimously.**

**6. NEXT MEETING – October 8, 2020**

Commissioner Miller suggested to use the North Farms Firehouse building’s Training Room for the next meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Borne to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Commissioner McQueen, and approved unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen L. Burns

Recording Secretary