

**Final / Approved**

**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, October 8, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

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

Note: The October 8, 2020, Regular Meeting in Town Hall for 7:00 p.m. was cancelled and a Special Meeting was set and held outdoors at Marcus Cooke Park at 6:00 p.m. due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Present:** Chair Mary Heffernon and Commissioners Jared McQueen, Jeffrey Borne, Dianne Lendler, Carl Arsenault, Brad Sammis, Dianne Saunders and Environmental Planner Erin O’Hare

**Absent:** Vice Chair Lathrop and Commissioner Mike Miller

Chair Heffernon called this Special Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Special Meeting, Sept. 10, 2020**

Corrections were made as follows:

p. 3 at 2.C.: Commissioner McQueen asked to replace sentence 2 for Marcus Cooke Park with: *“Commissioner McQueen said he would complete his survey of trail blockages and E-mail a map of their locations in a few days.”*

p. 3 at 2.E.2., sentence 2, to correct “notify” to “ask”, to read: *“Ms. O’Hare will ask Public Works to do this.”*

**Motion by Commissioner Borne to accept the September 10, 2020 Minutes as corrected; seconded by Commissioners Lendler and McQueen, and approved unanimously.**

**2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

**A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

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

Commissioner Saunders said Tyler Mill Preserve is looking better. Commissioner Lendler said the Mustard Trail will be worked on next week. Ms. O’Hare asked if the Stewards could post warning signs to alert the public that Hunting Season opens.

2. Storm damage – No new reports.

3. Mower rental, First Aid kits & other purchases

Commissioner Saunders said that because of all the trail work to be done, there may not be time for working with the rental mower this fall.

Regarding First Aid kits, Commissioner Borne had spoken with Commissioner Miller who said current State law protects helpers from being sued. So Commissioner Borne agreed that the Commission should obtain First Aid kits to assist people who do not have serious injury. Commissioner Saunders said two kits are needed for the Stewards themselves to use at Tyler Mill and to aid persons in the public.

**Motion by Commissioner Sammis to purchase the materials necessary for two First Aid kits for a total cost of approximately \$187.00 but not more than \$200.00; seconded by Commissioner Borne, and approved unanimously.**

Ms. O'Hare suggested that these funds could come from the Office Supplies account. *Commissioner Saunders will order the kits.* She provided Ms. O'Hare with a list of kit components.

#### 4. Other reports

Commissioner Lendler proposed to block off the White Trail. It is thickly grown in and muddy, possibly unsustainable. Right now it is blocked. *The Trails Committee will go and see it.*

### **B. Fresh Meadows**

#### 1. Plant installations – report

Ms. O'Hare said there is deer damage to some of the new plants, but the 8-foot dogwood tree survived. New plantings are all right but stunted from the drought. Chair Heffernon saw a lot of Monarch butterflies in there. *Ms. O'Hare said she will install orange-flagged warning stakes around the plantings to protect from mowing in November.*

#### 2. Trees by glacial erratic

Commissioner Arsenault reported the erratic is mostly blocked on one side by smaller sprouts coming out of surrounding trees. Some do reach the overhead communication lines. He recommended taking them down. It was agreed that the larger existing trees should remain. *Chair Heffernon will check with Parks and Recreation Director Kenny Michaels about this cutting.*

#### 3. Addition of name on Town Open Space property signage – This will be taken up in November.

#### 4. Graffiti

Ms. O'Hare reported that Parks and Recreation Department has painted over graffiti on some signs and the guardrails. Chair Heffernon saw that the Rules and Regulations sign located to the left of the main sign should be fixed, as it was defaced by graffiti. No decision was made for now. Ms. O'Hare reported that Public Works personnel have taken out the debris at Tessa's Trail knoll.

### **C. Marcus Cooke – trail clean-up**

Commissioner McQueen had provided his map of trail blockages, and the trails remain in poor condition.

Commissioner Arsenault said he will help at Marcus Cooke. Chair Heffernon will ask Commissioner Miller to assist.

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

1. Encroachment – Ms. O’Hare has spoken with Corporation Counsel Janis Small, and Ms. O’Hare would like to have a fence installed there.

**Motion by Commissioner Borne to authorize Erin O’Hare to ask Public Works to install a fence marking the property border at the 205 Main Street Open Space property; seconded by Commissioner Lendler, and approved unanimously.**

*Ms. O’Hare will document the encroachment and communicate the fence installation request to the Public Works Department.*

2. Repair of Town Open Space property signage – No report.  
Commissioner Sammis did clear the foliage from around this main sign.

**E. Beseck Meadows**

1. Encroachment – Ms. O’Hare had no report.  
  
2. Bamboo – encroachment & management.

Ms. O’Hare said that Public Works Superintendent Steve Palermo indicated the Department prefers not to use glyphosate. Ms. O’Hare had asked him about using a backhoe to remove the bamboo and then installing a steel barrier below ground here. He indicated he would do it. Commissioner Saunders said there seems to be nowhere to take the bamboo. Members’ suggestions included: incinerating it; screening soil off first and then holding it somewhere (even the screen needs to be cleaned after use—otherwise, bamboo debris could re-grow elsewhere); bulldozing it (a property owner had done that before, and theirs is gone); hiring a knowledgeable vendor to cut and dispose of it or use chemicals; or to cut it, put down very thick plastic, then the bamboo, then a plastic covering until it decomposes and then remove it. This pile could be located to the side of the access road. *Ms. O’Hare will discuss these suggestions with Mr. Palermo.* Commissioner Borne expressed hope that Mr. Palermo can complete this work as soon as it is feasible.

**F. Other properties**

1. Other  
Commissioner Saunders said the Bertini Park cleanup should be finished soon.

**3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

**A. Farmland Lease Committee**

Commissioner Lendler reported that the lessee mowed the field at the top of Whirlwind Hill, which is Field 4C.

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

There was no report on bids for these three fields. *Commissioner Saunders said Field 7A should be cut soon to control invasives and phragmites. Also, Public Works should cut Field 8B, which has dogbane. Ms. O'Hare will follow up.*

**C. Field 7A, Northford Rd.** – hunter parking proposal & vehicle trespass issue

Ms. O'Hare said hunting season starts this Saturday, October 10. *Commissioner Saunders said she will make up hunting maps and public-area maps and place them at Field 7A and at different entrances to Tyler Mill Preserve.*

**D. Field 3A, East Center St.** – gate

Ms. O'Hare reported that the gate to Field 3A was down and the Water Division fixed it for the farmer.

**E. Several fields** – compliance with lease terms. No report.

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

The specific date is not decided.

**5. REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. CACIWC** – CT Land Conservation Virtual Conference, October 17, 2020, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

This conference was noted by Chair Heffernon.

**B. CACIWC** – Membership dues. Dues were voted by the Commission at the last meeting.

**C. CFPA magazine**, *Connecticut Woodlands*, Fall 2020 issue, is available.

**D. Preservation Connecticut** – program descriptions, email. Ms. O'Hare has this information for Commissioners. This organization can be found via Google.

**6. NEXT MEETING** – November 12, 2020.

Chair Heffernon has arranged for both the November and December meetings to be held at the Parks and Recreation Department.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen L. Burns  
Recording Secretary