

**Final / Approved**

**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
Basement Conference Room, Town Hall  
45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

**MINUTES**

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

**Absent:** Vice Chair John Lathrop

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

**1. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, December 12, 2019**

Chair Heffernon called for consideration of the Minutes for approval. These corrections were requested:

Under previous corrections section, "Mss." To "Ms.".

Page 1, under item 2.A. 1, Stewards of Tyler Mill, delete the word "*five*" regarding number of students and replace "*had planted*" with "*are propagating*".

Page 2, under item 2.B.2., Mowing, replace "*Mr. Borne*" with "*Commissioner Borne*".

**Motion by Commissioner Borne to approve the Minutes as corrected.**

**Seconded by Commissioner McQueen**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**2. Property Management**

A. Tyler Mill Preserve

1. Stewards of Tyler Mill Preserve – report, D. Saunders & D. Lendler  
Commissioner Saunders submitted a copy of the Stewards report for the file and reviewed it highlighting need to relocate one of the footbridges due to floodplain issues and a new issue regarding damage to Woodhouse Ave. soccer fields which may possibly be tunneling by moles. The matter has been referred to CT Ag Station. She noted the report of an aggressive attack on a person and their dog by a possibly rabid raccoon that occurred recently on the Red South Trail.

2. Signage: street sign, no motorized vehicles & trail head signage  
Chair Heffernon asked Commissioner Saunders if the Tyler Mill Road street sign was installed. Commissioner Saunders said it was not; also, the Green Trail signage is not installed yet.

### 3. Maltby Lane erosion area

Commissioner Saunders reported the erosion issue on Maltby Lane by the farm field has not yet been addressed by the Town.

### 4. Other reports

Commissioner Saunders reported she is concerned about the Public Works Dept.'s recent installation of millings to patch up Tyler Mill Road and the parking areas as the millings tend to degrade over time and may introduce pollutants to the river. Ms. O'Hare affirmed that the DEEP allows the use of millings for roads or trails adjacent to wetlands and watercourses.

#### B. Fresh Meadows

1. Camera installation in south field
2. Japanese knotweed in south field

Chair Heffernon asked Commissioner Borne to identify the location of the reported camera on a map of the property. He indicated it was on the north side of the gas easement "trail" and passed around his photo of it. *Commissioner Borne will take the Chair out to view it and the Japanese knotweed patch that was reported by Ms. O'Hare.*

#### C. Other properties

1. Cooke Road property - northern boundary issue

Ms. O'Hare read the memorandum from the Engineering Dept. responding to the request to investigate possible encroachment and missing boundary markers in the northwestern corner of the property. They found minimal encroachment (approx. 1 ½ feet) and indicated that the missing boundary markers were in fact present. Commissioner Saunders reiterated her belief that there is dumping and mowing on Town land which is important as the adjacent owner allows hunting on his land. *Ms. O'Hare will inquire with Engineering Dept. again using the map of the area to clarify the area in question.*

*Ms. O'Hare will also inquire about the status of a Town lease on Anderson Road.*

2. Hope Hill Road area -incident - open space boundary markers removed

Ms. O'Hare showed a bag full of open space boundary markers and wetlands plaques that had been dropped off by the police officer that had responded to a complaint of high school students removing the signage from various Town properties in vicinity of Ridgeland Road, North Ridgeland Road, and North Turnpike Road and the Moran school property. Ms. O'Hare had explained to the officer that the idea of requiring the students to re-install the markers was not possible due to the importance of exact location. Ms. O'Hare indicated the wetlands plaques would be from private properties. Chair Heffernon asked that the Engineering Dept. be requested to replace the markers and to provide an accounting of the number of man hours it ends up taking for the task of researching the affected areas and reinstalling the markers. *Ms. O'Hare will follow-up.*

3. Other

Commissioner Saunders reported vandalism of numerous 'Emergency markers' installed

along the Tyler Mill trails. Some markers are missing; some are bent back. The Stewards fixed some.

### **3. Farmland Lease Property Program**

#### A. Farmland Lease Committee –report

Commissioner Saunders reported that the Committee has not met since October.

B. Proposed bids - Field 8B, Northford Rd., Fields 4C & 19A, Whirlwind Hill Rd./Scard Rd.

Ms. O’Hare reported that the drafts are not ready and that a new farmer had inquired about the pasture lease. Commissioners Saunders and Arsenault stressed the importance of the mission of the lease program which is to support local agriculture and that is why there has to be a 2-envelope bid for this field.

#### C. Bid renewal – Field 5A, Cooke Rd.

*Commissioner Saunders will type up proposed lease changes and submit to Ms. O’Hare who will then prepare letter to Law Dept. for the renewal once Commissioner Saunders has reviewed it.*

#### D. Proposed bid waiver - Field 18A, 995C E. Center St.

Ms. O’Hare reported that she spoke with Warren Williams who expressed interest in continuing the lease. *She will complete a draft proposed lease for Commissioner Saunders to review.*

#### E. RFQ Autumn olive tree removal - Field 4C, Whirlwind Hill Rd./Scard Rd.

Ms. O’Hare asked for clarification on the RFQ she was tasked to send out. Commissioner Saunders explained the job involves a cluster of Autumn olive trees that are to be removed while maintaining the hedgerow a width of 5 feet back from Whirlwind Hill Road. *Ms. O’Hare is to follow-up.*

### **4. Public Events**

#### A. Spring Farm Day event

*Commissioner Saunders will get potential dates from the farmer for a meeting with herself and Chair Heffernon to plan the event.*

### **5. Reports/Correspondence**

Chair Heffernon indicated there will be an Open House & Environmental Information Mini-fair at the Library on Permaculture, on Feb. 5, 7 p.m.-.8 p.m. in the Collins Room.

### **6. Next Meeting** – February 13, 2020

### **7. Adjournment**

Commissioner McQueen made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sammis, which was voted unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin O’Hare, Environmental Planner - Acting Recording Secretary