

Final / Approved

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, November 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Room #7, Parks & Recreation Dept.

6 Fairfield Boulevard, Wallingford, CT

Note: The November 12, 2020, Regular Meeting in Town Hall for 7:00 p.m. was cancelled and a Special Meeting was set and held at Room #7, Parks & Recreation Department, 6 Fairfield Boulevard, Wallingford, CT, at 6:00 p.m. due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Present: Chair Mary Heffernon, Vice Chair John Lathrop, Commissioners Jared McQueen, Brad Sammis, Dianne Saunders and Environmental Planner Erin O'Hare. Commissioner Mike Miller arrived as noted.

Absent: Commissioners Dianne Lendler, Carl Arsenault and Jeffrey Borne

Chair Heffernon called this Special Meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Special Meeting, Oct. 8, 2020

Motion by Commissioner McQueen to accept the October 8, 2020 Minutes as presented; seconded by Vice Chair Lathrop, and approved unanimously.

2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

A. Tyler Mill Preserve

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

Commissioner Saunders passed out copies of her Stewards report. Tyler Mill Preserve work is 90% done by the Stewards as to these tasks: re-blazing, brush being taken off, and trails trimmed back.

2. Storm damage – Bertini Park

Commissioner Saunders said the work here is nearly done.

3. Mower rental

Commissioner Sammis said he would do this mowing, and Chair Heffernon will ask Commissioner Arsenault to assist.

At 6:18 p.m. Commissioner Mike Miller arrived.

4. Other reports – None.

B. Fresh Meadows

1. Tessa's Trail

The Trails Committee will clear the fallen trees. Commissioner Saunders said it appears that Fresh Meadows was mowed recently.

2. Trees by glacial erratic

The Trails Committee will cut the saplings and lower branches obscuring the glacial erratic.

3. Addition of name on Town Open Space property signage

Ms. O'Hare had received quotes for two new property signs: first, for \$295.00 to add "Fresh Meadows" above the existing Town Open Space sign there; and second, for \$488.00 to replace the broken large sign at 205 Main Street, Yalesville.

Motion by Commissioner Miller to purchase these two signs, being to add "Fresh Meadows" to the existing Open Space sign there for \$295.00 and for a new sign for Town of Wallingford Open Space in Yalesville for \$488.00; seconded by Vice Chair Lathrop, and approved unanimously. Ms. O'Hare will order these signs.

4. Graffiti – Not discussed.

C. Marcus Cooke Park

1. Trail clean-up

Chair Heffernon said this work has been completed.

2. Re-blazing

(((Commissioner McQueen said some blazing on the Yellow Trail was refurbished.))) Chair Heffernon reported that Terri Arsenault's Girl Scout troop re-blazed the Park trails with the Trails Committee and Dianne Saunders.

D. 205 Main Street Open Space property

1. Encroachment

Ms. O'Hare will go to the 205 Main Street Open Space in Yalesville to document the encroachment issue and then report to Corporation Counsel Janis Small.

2. Repair of Town Open Space property signage

See Motion at item 2.B.3. above.

E. Beseck Meadows

1. Encroachment – No report.

2. Bamboo – encroachment & management

Ms. O’Hare said that Public Works Superintendent Steve Palermo is willing to have the workers use a backhoe to pull out the bamboo. In discussion, Commissioner Saunders wanted to know how the bamboo rhizomes will be disposed of. She did recommend that the bamboo be dried and then that the soil would be cleaned off the equipment screen. *Chair Heffernon will look into how to dispose of the cut bamboo.*

F. Other properties

1. Other – No report.

3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM

A. Farmland Lease Committee

Commissioner Saunders said this Committee has not met.

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

Commissioner Saunders said there is no report on Fields 5A and 7A. As to Field 7A, Commissioner Saunders advised that this field should be mowed in winter by Public Works and that the phragmites and Autumn olive need to be treated there. *Ms. O’Hare will ask Public Works Superintendent Steve Palermo to have his crew do these tasks on Field 7A.* Ms. O’Hare reported Public Works had just mowed Field 8B. Commissioner Saunders added that the corner of Northford Road and Cooke Road needs to be mowed for visibility. *Ms. O’Hare will relay this information to Mr. Palermo.*

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

Ms. O’Hare said there is no update.

D. Several fields – compliance with lease terms

Ms. O’Hare said there is no report.

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

Commissioner Saunders will call the State liaison again.

5. REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE

A. DEEP magazine, CT Wildlife, July/August 2020 – Has been received in the office.

B. CACIWC December 5, 2020, meeting – This is a day-long meeting, and it will be held virtually.

6. NEXT MEETING – December 10, 2020

The December 10 Special Meeting will be held at the Parks and Recreation Department in Room 7. The Commissioners did receive a draft 2021 Meeting Schedule, and it was approved.

Ms. O’Hare stated that the Town’s Watershed Protection District Regulations are being revised by the Planning and Zoning Commission for the December Public Hearing on them. Proposed changes are posted online on the Town website. At 6:50 p.m., Ms. O’Hare left the meeting.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Miller to go into Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner McQueen, and approved unanimously.

The Recording Secretary left the room at 6:51 p.m. Then the Recording Secretary was called back into the room at 7:02 p.m.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Lathrop to come out of Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner McQueen, and approved unanimously.

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Afterward, Commissioner Saunders showed the new First Aid Kit that will be used by Stewards and Commissioners at Tyler Mill Preserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen L. Burns
Recording Secretary