

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

PRESENT: Commissioners: Kate Throckmorton, Kristen Begor, Dave Hapke, Nick Lee, Kim Young and, Patrice Gillespie

NOT PRESENT: Christopher Coyle (Noticed of absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Environmental Analyst; Karen DeSantis, Administrative Secretary; Gail Lavielle, guest

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Begor called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

Chairman Begor scrambled the agenda to introduce a guest speaker.

Gail Lavielle, Commissioner, Connecticut Public Transportation Commission introduced herself to the Commission.

Ms. Lavielle described the function of the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission and the invited the Commissioners to attend the next public hearing that will be held at the Norwalk City Hall on May 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Lavielle handed out a list of the topics to be discussed at the scheduled public hearing.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Begor thanked Ms. Lavielle for taking the time to visit with the Commission.

II. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS –

- 1. WET#1898(S) – LUNG** – construction of a new dwelling, with associated development within an upland review area at 20 Riding Club Road.

Kate Throckmorton recused herself.

Mike Conklin reviewed the proposed site plan and explained refreshed the Commissions memory of the previous application that had be withdrawn a few months ago. He explained that the major differences between the applications were the foot print of the house had been reduced by 1,000 square feet and the driveway location had been changed.

A discussion ensued concerning the impervious surface areas and slopes.

The Commission recommended that the applicant work with the original permit issued five years ago that had

been extended that had a much small footprint, no pool and driveway location on Olmstead across the wetland rather than the steep slope driveway proposed as a feasible alternative.

Ms. Throckmorton was reseated.

2. WET#1901(S) – CHRISTENSEN - "corrective action" to restore a wetland and buffer at 37 Bob White Lane

Nick Lee recused himself.

Mr. Conklin passed around site photos and explained the permit violation and described the permit that had been issued. He explained that the wetland had been physically removed and the soil placed on another part of the property and that the proposed plan would put the soil back in the wetland area along with a planting plan that would improve the site.

Dave Hapke asked Mr. Conklin if the type of soil would be a concern to place in the area removed.

Mr. Conklin didn't feel that in this situation that the soil composition would be a concern.

Kim Young asked if the boulders that were on the property would be moved to delineate the regulated area.

Mr. Conklin answered Ms. Young by saying that the boulders would be placed appropriately to delineate the regulated area.

The Commission had no further questions or comments.

III. PLANNING and ZONING REFFERALS – None

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Parks - All

Mike Conklin reported that he had been approached by a Dave Frankfort who is a NIMBA member and had offered to volunteer with others who are associated with the organization to work on the trails and erosion along with improving the water crossings. He stated that he had forwarded a project plan to Mr. Hapke for his review. He added that the organization is trained in trail maintenance and are involved in mountain biking and actually train bikers to be respectful to hikers, dog walkers and horseback riders on the trails.

Ms. Young asked if erosion becomes a concern with mountain biking.

Mr. Conklin answered Ms. Young by stating that the group targets those areas and improves them.

Mr. Conklin reported that there is a girl scout who has expressed interest in working on a project on the trails at Cherry Lane.

Nick Lee reported the status of the work being done at Quarry Head and Harrison Smith Preserve. He stated that there had been a tree planting dedicated to Nick Parisot and that blue bird houses had been installed.

Mr. Conklin reported that two acres in the front of Sackett had been beat back and will be mowed regularly by the Parks and Recs department. He stated that he plans to manage more area in the future as an ongoing project.

Ms. Throckmorton mentioned that a well cover (round) needed to be secured better.

2. Open Space Preservation – Sesto

Ms. Sesto was not present to report.

3. Plan of Conservation and Development – Throckmorton

Ms. Throckmorton reported that a revised draft was due on May 13th and she will let the Commissioners know when it will be available for review and comments and to submit comments to Pat Sesto. She also agreed to notify the Energy Commission as well.

4. Center Tree Plan – Sesto, Lee, Throckmorton

Mr. Lee and Ms. Throckmorton reported that 10 trees were recently planted which brought the total to 14 as of yet and felt that enough have been donated for now.

Ms. Begor updated the Commission on the Tree Festival being held at Cranberry Park and asked for volunteers to spend some time at the Conservation table and announced that Pat will be receiving her award.

5. Recycling – Begor, Hapke

Mr. Hapke updated the Commission on the progress with the transfer station.

Ms. Begor announced that Nancy Faesy has joined the committee to replace Hal Clark and that stickers will be mailed to every resident (free of charge) along with a newsletter.

Mr. Conklin mentioned that the owner of Keeler's Hardware expressed an interest in being a location to drop off CFL's to be disposed of.

Dave Hapke thought it would need to be addressed with the DPW department due to the fact that Keeler's Hardware is a business rather than a residence. He suggested that the Fall Newsletter have a "follow up" article on the new transfer station recycling program.

Ms. Young suggested the possibility of the Town supplying the residents with composters.

Ms. Throckmorton suggested a drug disposal program.

Mr. Conklin felt that it was not allowed by the Connecticut DEP but that he would investigate further on the matter of a drug disposal program.

6. River Walk – Hapke, Coyle

Mr. Hapke stated that there was nothing new to report.

7. Work with other Commissions/Committees
a. Parks and Rec./Allen's Meadows – Young

Mr. Conklin reported that 38 tires were removed along with some old swing sets from Allen's meadows on Clean up day.

b. Energy Commission

Patrice Gillespie reported that the green house emission inventory program has started but the program was not as sophisticated as hoped. She mentioned that Wilton joined ICLE on April 4th as a member. She felt once all the data has been entered for the emission inventory, the Town will have a better idea as to where improvements could be made.

Ms. Gillespie reported that she had attended the Ridgefield meeting and she explained that there were several town departments involved.

8. Regional Projects

Chairman Begor has been asked to write an article for the Energy Commission and asked the Commissioners for some suggestions on topics.

Mr. Hapke suggested energy saved with recycling data.

Ms. Young suggested buying produce grown locally.

Mr. Conklin informed the Commission of the project that the Chamber of Commerce is working on a Farmers Market in the center of Town.

a. Deer Management – Sesto

Ms. Sesto was not available to comment

b. Water Quality & Quantity – Gillespie

Nothing to report

9. Website – Gillespie

Karen Padowicz reported that the House Hold Hazardous Waste Day schedule along with the Electronic Recycling schedule in Fairfield is on the website.

10. Donations

Mr. Conklin mentioned that he had met with Dave Frankfort who would like to raise funds to improve the Town Forest.

11. Spring Newsletter

Mr. Conklin reported that there had been a lot of phone calls concerning the new recycling plan.

12. Goose Oiling

Mr. Conklin reported that he and Ms. Gillespie had oiled 12 eggs and he would draft a report at the end of the season on the status.

13. Town wide Cleanup Day

Mr. Conklin reported that there were 67 participants and 1,220 pounds of garbage was collected and Pinocchio's (formerly Stefano's) gave out free pizza slices once again. He felt that the event was a success.

14. Other

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gillespie suggested the topic of an invasive plant management program.

VI. LIASON REPORT

Ms. Gillespie and Mr. Hapke reported that there were three meetings last month, two Inland Wetland meetings and one Planning and Zoning meetings and updated the Commission.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Sesto was not available.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 4/1/09

Patrice Gillespie MOTIONED to approve the minute of 4/1/09 seconded by Nick Lee and carried 6-0-0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Begor MOTIONED to adjourn, seconded by Nick Lee and carried 6-0-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Padowicz
Recording Secretary