

**Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the October 13, 2010 Meeting**

Page 1 of 1

Chairman Rick Baldoni called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners Ingrid Boelhouwer, William Knapp, Christoph Geiss, Ralph Moyer, Robert Pulford, and Rebecca Zaliznock. Also in attendance was Mayor Donna Hemmann (arriving at 7:40 pm); Kathy Bagley, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department; Christopher Shepard, Director of the Nature Center; Jim Meehan (resident); and Phil Tougas (resident).

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 8, 2010 Minutes were reviewed and on a Motion by R. Moyer, Seconded by B. Knapp, approved unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS / OLD BUSINESS

1. A membership renewal notice was received from the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commissions (dated October 1, 2010). The membership renewal is for the term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for \$50.00. K. Bagley will find out if the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission is a member, and if not, will renew on the behalf of the Conservation Commission.
2. W. Knapp announced the opening ceremony for the Wilkus Farm purchase to be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Willow Street property. The Commissioners are urged to attend.
3. I. Boelhouwer suggested the possibility of approaching Professor Bill Breetz of the UConn Law School to request assistance with the legal issues related to the Logush property located along the northwest side of Wintergreen Woods. K. Bagley said she will run this offer by the Town Manager to determine if we can request these services.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Chairman Baldoni thanked Jim Meehan for attending the meeting and for his research report for Wintergreen Woods. Mr. Meehan offered to write another research report for a town park of the Commission's choosing. A **MOTION** was moved by W. Knapp (seconded by R. Moyer) to "request Jim Meehan to prepare a historic report for Mill Woods Park". The Motion received a unanimous vote.
2. A letter previously submitted to the Town by Mr. Philip Tougas of 5 Hawthorn Way was presented by Mr. Tougas, requesting the Town to consider the placement of either a sidewalk or a recreational trail along the west side of Old Reservoir Road (on Town-owned land located near the Hawthorn Way intersection). Mr. Tougas reviewed the requested location on a town map with the Commission. The Commission said that section of town will be considered however several obstacles will need to be reviewed including (but not limited to) privately owned parcels; restrictions on the Wilkus property; the locations of wetlands; costs; and time. Ms. Bagley offered to discuss the considerations with the Engineering Department.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner B. Pulford presented a packet of information submitted to the Commission by Connie Rosato of 581 Ridge Road regarding the potential sale of the Town owned property known as the Colonel John Chester Grounds Park, which abuts Ms. Rosato's property. Ms. Rosato received a letter from Town Manager Jeff Bridges dated September 2, 2010, requesting her attendance at an informational meeting held September 14, 2010 at the Police Department Community Room. The packet of information included copies of the Town letter; parcel maps for the subject parcel and for three other parcels intended for sale by the Town; a four page presentation read by Ms. Rosato at the September 14 meeting; and other documents in support of open space and trap rock ridge preservation.

Mayor Hemmann confirmed the Town's intent to sell parcels including 2 building lots at Nott Street / Westlook Road; Savage Park on Silas Deane Highway (north of Rite Aid); 3 building lots on Middletown Avenue (near Casey Lane); and the Colonel Chester Park on Crest Street. Mayor Hemmann said that Town Council sub-committee selected these parcels after reviewing approximately 29 town owned properties. The Public Works subcommittee of the Town Council intends to sell the parcels due to the cost of upkeep and maintenance, but has not made a final recommendation to the Town Council to date. The Conservation Commission was not informed or consulted about the sale of Town properties, and expressed frustration and disappointment to Mayor Hemmann about the Commissions' exclusion in this process. The Commissioners agreed to attend the November 15, 2010 Town Council meeting to present information to the Council regarding the need to have the Commission involved in this process.

Chairman Baldoni adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM under a Motion by C. Geiss and seconded by R. Moyer.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zaliznock