

1 **Wilton Conservation Commission**

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2 <http://www.ci.wilton.nh.us/>

3 **MONDAY Sept. 14, 2015 Town Hall Courtroom, 7:00 PM**

4 **DRAFT Minutes**

5 Wilton Conservation Commission held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 2015 at the  
6 Town Hall Courtroom at 7:00PM. Present were Commissioners Bart Hunter (Chairman), Jeff Stone, Les  
7 Tallarico, Alan Preston, Spencer Brookes, Bill Mahar and Joe Broyles; Clerk Joanna K Eckstrom; and  
8 members of the public Lincoln Geiger, Glynn Graham, Bill and Dodie Finlayson, and Andrew Finlayson.  
9 The following agenda was observed.

10 1. **Call to order** Chairman Bart Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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12 2. **Minutes**, August 10, 2015 – Referencing lines 15 to 18, commissioners acknowledged that  
13 several parcels outside of Wilton may be impacted by the proposed pipeline but that the minutes  
14 list only those parcels that are within the Town borders. On a motion by Les Tallarico, seconded  
15 by Spencer Brookes, the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

16  
17 3. **Budget & Expenditures** – Alan Preston noted that an invoice for payment to Chris Carter needs  
18 to be rendered and documented before it can be paid. Alan also asked that effort be made to find  
19 out exact balance remaining of LCHIP funds from last year. Alan and Bart will look into this.

20  
21 A reminder was made that 2016 Budget season is approaching. Commission should start  
22 planning for this.

23  
24 4. **Ongoing Business:**

25 Sheila Barnett property (Bart / Alan) Ms Barnett has sent a letter to the Town on this issue. It is  
26 still unclear whether the Town or State is responsible for upkeep on Whiting Hill Road.

27 **Frog Pond** Per Jeff Stone's report, things are 'quiet' for this time of year. There are no new  
28 beaver dams; seepage is as low as ever seen; north end is quite dry; ducks have been seen at the  
29 spillway. Spencer asked about whether the feeder is flowing? Jeff did not observe the feeder.  
30 Alan reminded the commission that the State mandated mowing. A motion by Alan, seconded  
31 by Joe Broyles to pay \$350 for mowing was unanimously approved.

32 **K-177 & FPCA – clean up** (from Selectmen's meeting, Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>) Jeff reported that cleanup  
33 is progressing. Selectmen granted Mark Gabel an extension to complete cleanup by December  
34 31, 2015. (Mr. Gabel was said to be pleased with this date rather than being rushed. Jeff was  
35 asked (by Selectmen) whether Conservation Commission was ok with this new deadline –  
36 speaking personally, Jeff felt ok with 12/31/2015 deadline as long as progress is being made.

37 **Dog Waste – Bag & Bin** (from Selectmen's meeting 8/17) Jeff reported that Selectmen had  
38 agreed to put a dog waste station at Whiting Park and would spend up to \$350 to do this.

39 Selectmen may also approach Wilton Water Works and Wilton Sewer department to put a PSA  
40 flyer in the next bills from those offices. Ms Eckstrom said this would be sometime in October-  
41 November, after quarterly billings at 9/30/2015 are finished.

42 **Zoning Board** – nothing new

43 **Planning Board** – nothing new

44 The agenda was suspended to allow discussion of letter from Lesley Finlayson (parents live in  
45 Wilton) and answer her question – “Why has WCC not taken a stand on the NED Pipeline?”  
46 Speaking to this were Lincoln Geiger (member of the Temple NH Conservation Commission  
47 and manager of Four Corners Farm Wilton; Glynn Graham (Wilton resident, 608 Abbot Hill Rd);  
48 Dodie and Andrew Finlayson (Wilton residents, 167 Heald Rd).

49 Lincoln said he hoped that (local) governments would take a stand against the pipeline but that  
50 federal guidelines provide little opportunity for this. Lincoln cited concerns about the  
51 environmental impact – to air, water, the land, etc. What impact will a pipeline have on local  
52 farms? Said that in some parts of country where pipelines have been forced upon a community,  
53 people are selling their properties so there’s an economic impact –to schools, local services etc.  
54 He is concerned about long-term safety and ‘fracking’ and wants WCC to take a stand.

55 Bart said he is personally concerned with environment and especially that Wilton derives no  
56 benefit from a pipeline in its back yard; but he and Joe questioned whether the Wilton  
57 Conservation Commission had the authority to take a position, one way or the other.

58 Glynn Graham said that she is very concerned with environmental issues – air pollution,  
59 potential damage to rivers. She was very disappointed that the Wilton Conservation  
60 Commission was not among the group of NH conservation commissions who were sending a  
61 letter to Governor Hassan.

62 Ms. Eckstrom asked if the joint letter being referred to was a very lengthy, June 23, 2015 letter  
63 proposed by Bob Dillberger, Mason Conservation Commission? Yes. It was determined that the  
64 Wilton Conservation Commission had not received the letter in time to thoroughly review and  
65 respond by the August 1, 2015 deadline.

66 Andrew Finlayson addressed various health risks by living near compressor stations and other  
67 equipment needed for the pipeline. He did not want these in his back yard.

68 Bill Mahar read from a document that gave both the pros and cons of a pipeline. He said there  
69 are numerous considerations to look at – environmental, economic, etc - and he hasn’t had a  
70 chance to explore these. He took exception to this group’s insinuation that WCC’s not signing  
71 the letter meant it didn’t care.

72 Joe Broyles, a former employee of the NH Office of Energy and Planning said everybody’s  
73 concern should be about delivering fuel SAFELY for the long-term, be it electricity, natural gas,  
74 solar, wind, oil, etc. Generally speaking, it may be more efficient to build a pipeline now rather  
75 than 10 years from now. But a well-thought decision yes or no can’t be made overnight. People  
76 need to hear about everything, not just one side or another. Joe said he feels that the Wilton  
77 Conservation Commission has an advisory role to play and questioned whether it had the  
78 authority to take a stand. He felt it’s more appropriate to advise the Selectboard and let the  
79 people decide (at Town Meeting).

80 Lincoln agreed that each Town's proposing a warrant article is the way to go. Bart agreed that  
81 more info is needed.

82 Joanna said that she works for several departments in town and each department is addressing  
83 pipeline questions 'individually.' For example, the Wilton Water Works is concerned about  
84 having a construction staging area over the wellhead; the Health Officer is exploring potential  
85 health risks. She said, ultimately, these groups need to get together, share their thoughts, and  
86 hopefully come to a unified resolution.

87 Joe spoke about the newly formed Wilton Energy committee – it was convened to explore ways  
88 for the town to conserve energy and cuts costs for electricity, heating, etc. It has no official  
89 capacity whereby it cannot mandate anything.

90 Joe and Bart repeated that getting Selectmen's advice would be apropos.

91 Andrew said he felt conservation commission was speaking too much about economics of the  
92 pipeline and was worried that WCC wasn't taking a stand on potential health / environmental  
93 impact.

94 Joe repeated the importance of the WCC's needing to understand ALL sides of an issue before  
95 rendering an opinion. Bart cited the role of the WCC as an advisory one (to the Selectmen); it  
96 is the Selectmen who ultimately decide whether to take the advice; if there is a question in their  
97 mind, the path to take is a warrant article.

98 Dodie Finlayson said she has experience with the Frankestown Conservation Commission. They  
99 were late to sign on to the letter to Governor Hassan – the new deadline is October 16, 2015.

100 Jeff said he wants his voice to be heard – as a conservation commissioner and personally. Jeff  
101 moved, Les seconded that "The Wilton Conservation Commission formally support opposition  
102 to the pipeline. Three commissioners voted Yes; four abstained; the motion passed, however it  
103 was subsequently withdrawn. WCC follows Robert's Rules; it will be checked to see how votes  
104 should be counted when there are abstentions.

105 Joe moved, Bill seconded that the WCC approach / seek advice of Selectmen about its  
106 (authority) to take a position on the pipeline. Motion carried – 6 yes; one abstain. Joe and Bart  
107 will contact Pam Atwood to get on Selectmen's agenda next possible meeting.

108 There was no further discussion on Ms Finlayson's letter; the parties were thanked for coming  
109 tonight. Joanna advised the group that all town meetings are open to the public and that they  
110 should check the town website to see what's happening, when. Agendas and minutes are posted  
111 on the website and at Town Hall also.

112 **Forest Management and Timber Intents** – per Bill, nothing new

113 **Wildlife Sightings** Jeff – turkeys nesting at Carnival Hill; site marked so nests don't get disturbed  
114 or harmed by mowers.

115 Joe – otters, indigo bunting at Heald tract; skunklets at home

116 Mountain lion in Peterborough, Les – wild turkey; Spencer sharp-shin hawk at feeder

117 **Conservation Plan** – Per Bart, a draft should be available shortly (digital format)

118 **SORLAC** rip-rap at McCabe in Merrimack; green bridge (Milford) is gone. Bart mentioned that a  
119 Mooseplate Grant is being applied for –at Mileslip (Milford); Frog Pond could be eligible. Bart will  
120 sign in behalf of WCC,

121 **LCHIP Monitoring** Spencer will distribute list of sites to be monitored.

122 5. **New Business:**

123 Change to WCC meeting day/time so no conflict with Selectmen's meetings? Decided to keep  
124 same.

125 **Next Meeting: Monday, October 12, 2015**

126 There being no other business, a motion to adjourn at 8:35 was approved.

127 Respectfully,

128 Joanna K Eckstrom, Clerk