

Wilton Conservation Commission

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Leslie P. Tallarico, Alternate

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

(approved: Oct 8, 2018)

The Wilton Conservation Commission held its **regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 13, 2018, at 7:00 pm** in the Wilton Fire Station Training Room.

Call to Order: Chairman Bart Hunter **called the meeting to order at 7:23pm**. Those attending were:

- Members: Alan Preston, Bart Hunter, Bill Maher, Jeff Stone, Jennifer Beck
- Visitors: Steve Rezsutek
- Jennifer Beck returned from collecting an A/V cable and joined the meeting at 7:25.

Old Business:

- Minutes: Review **of the minutes** of the July 9, 2018 meeting: B. Mahar moved & J. Stone seconded a motion to **accept the minutes as written; *the motion was passed unanimously.***
- Budget & Expenditures: B. Hunter said we still **don't know where our LCHIP money is**. **Trees to be removed at the Community Garden have now been removed. Some cleanup remains** to be done by B. Hunter, A. Preston & J. Stone. B. Mahar asked **when do we receive our share of Change Of Use** fees. B. Hunter answered, **"As they come in"** and said **"We need to have a [budget] spreadsheet** in our mailbox **whenever [the town] does their accounting."** B. Hunter explained that we have **three kinds of accounts**:
 - **Conservation Fund – Non-lapsing** account to receive **LCHIP Grants, donations, and other non-Town income.**
 - **Change of Use fees – non-lapsing** account for **WCC's portion of the Change of use fees.** May only be used for **land purchase.**
 - **Operating Budget – Funded by the town; lapses** at the end of the year.
- ZBA: J. Stone reported that the **ZBA** met on June 30 to decide **whether to re-hear** Gareth Dimery's application (case 06/12/18–2, denied on June 12, 2018) in light of **new information, not available** to the applicant **at the time of the previous hearing**. The request was **granted** and the **re-hearing is scheduled for September 18, 2018 at 7:30pm.**
- Planning Board: B. Hunter reported that the **Proctor Subdivision application** (between Laurel Hill Cemetery and Abbot Hill Acres) is **waiting for clarification** of land-ownership & boundaries in the area of the cemetery. **Habitat For Humanity is interested** in purchasing a **Town-owned property** in the area of Intervale Rd., which will **require a public hearing.**
- Horseshoe: J. Beck presented a **YouTube video of cliff-diving at the Horseshoe**, followed by a discussion of **management of Wilton's three recreational water resources** (The Horseshoe, Garwin Falls, and The New Reservoir). The **main theme was management vs. restriction and enforcement.** She reported a **very positive response** from Tina from LA Limo about the **possibility** of someday **ferrying visitors** between downtown parking areas and these venues, **if it were to be included in the context of a comprehensive management plan.** A. Preston pointed out that the **Garwin Falls land is in Current Use** in a category that **requires permitting public access.**
- B. Hunter asked whether there **might once have been a Town road from downtown to the Horseshoe.** B. Hunter moved & B. Mahar seconded that we **move forward with** items 1, 2, & 3 of J. Beck's proposal slide:
 1. **Set Meeting of WCC sub-committee of town depts.**
 2. **Schedule next Piscataquog [Land Conservancy] site walk of horseshoe – 1st or 2nd week in sept.**
 3. **Prepare select board briefing with draft financial package.**

The motion was passed unanimously.

- Frog Pond: J. Stone reported that there was **nothing new to report** as of his monthly visit to Frog Pond Dam on August 4th. B. Hunter asked about the integrity and performance of the seepage-weir. J. Stone said that the **weir is still in good condition and performing as intended**.
- Forest management: B. Maher presented new Timber Intents and reported there had been **no Changes of Use**.
- Wildlife Sightings: J. Stone reported seeing a **moose** on the S. side of route 101 in Temple, just E of the state parks. Several members reported **regular bear visits** through their properties.
- Property (LCHIP) monitoring: B. Hunter reported that **Four Corners Farm still waiting** for help with **how to meet the standards for restoration**. It was recommended that B. Hunter **point out again** that their **failure to make demonstrable, timely progress sours the town's relationship** with LCHIP and puts **future grant requests from other Town entities at risk**; that this is **not acceptable to the WCC** (nor, presumably, to other potentially affected Town entities), and **describe in detail**, if necessary, what **remedies could be taken by the town**, should this situation not improve very soon.
- Photo Contest: The photo **contest is over**, the **winning photos are displayed** in the Library and on the WCC's web page. J. Stone requested he remove the photo entry files from his email storage. It was agreed that he would put them on a Flash drive and hand it off to B. Maher to be stored among the WCC's physical files; and that thereafter, he may delete the emails.

New Business:

- How to attract new members: There was discussion noting that we are down to **five members** from our maximum of seven; that sometimes it's **easier to get things done with fewer** members; and recalling that we have **already discussed and established intern-to-member procedures**, only that we **lack interested intern/applicants**. J. Beck moved and B. Maher seconded a motion that J. Stone, in his capacity as the website News and Announcements Editor, **post a notice that the WCC is looking for new members**. J. Beck offered to provide a **poster**, both for the announcement, and **to display at Town Hall**.

Miscellaneous:

- Souhegan River Local Advisory Cmte: B. Maher reports that SoRLAC had discussed **mitigation of river bank erosion** in Milford.

Adjournment

- A **motion to adjourn** was moved, seconded and passed. Chairman Bart Hunter **adjourned** the meeting **at 9:19 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Stone, Acting Recorder