

1 **Wilton Conservation Commission**

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10 Leslie P. Tallarico, Alternate

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12 Minutes of Monthly Meeting

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14 The Wilton Conservation Commission held its **regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 8,**
15 **2018, at 7:02 pm** in the Fire Station Training room.

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17 **Call to Order:** Chairman Bart Hunter called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

18 Those attending were:

- 19 • Members: Bart Hunter, Chairman, Alan Preston, Jeff Stone, Jennifer Beck, and Les Tallarico.
- 20 • Guests: Dawn Tuomala and Ian McSweeney.

21 **New Business:**

- 22 • Dawn Tuomala gave a presentation on behalf of the Quinn Brothers Corp. requesting to the
23 Planning Board to operate a sand-washing machine. Water from Blood Brook will be piped
24 from the site. Dawn Tuomala contacted Jim Quinn by phone to give the Commission an up-
25 date on this proposal. B. Hunter had attended the Planning Board meeting and indicated this
26 presentation is for informational purposes only. A description was given regarding the project
27 and the construction of two holding ponds. Jim Quinn's goal is to be able to wash the gravel
28 so he may resell the sand for other projects. There was some discussion regarding the water
29 level of Blood Brook, and Jim indicated he would not pull from the brook if the water was low.
30 He also indicated that he has registered with the state for this operation and will report
31 quarterly to DES.

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33 B. Hunter thanked both Jim and Dawn for attending the meeting.

- 34
35 • Horseshoe land negotiations: Ian McSweeney joined us on a discussion regarding the possible
36 purchase of the Horseshoe property from Sam Proctor. I. McSweeney indicated that he rep-
37 represents the Russell Foundation and they are closing in June. He is finishing up work there and
38 spending down their investments. He indicated that he is exploring what he will do after June.
39 I. McSweeney – I represent the Russell Foundation, and believed I will go into consulting so I
40 can continue this type of work. He indicated he could help without any cost or commitment un-
41 til June and thereafter an agreement will have to be arranged. He indicated he has had sev-
42 eral conversations with Sam Proctor. S. Proctor indicated to I. McSweeney that he would like
43 to sell the land but is not under any pressure to do this immediately. I. McSweeney indicated
44 that S. Proctor said they would like to sell it, but would really prefer it to go to conservation
45 land, but if not bought by town or sold to an individual, he would expect an easement to be at-
46 tached to the land. I. McSweeney said was looking for about \$300,000 for the land, but might
47 be flexible. I. McSweeney expressed that it is a good resource for the town and town has used
48 it in the past. I. McSweeney believes it is a great property and could be a great asset to the
49 town. He also believes it is a viable property for doing a funding campaign. I. McSweeney in-

50 dicated that there are several grants that can be applied for funding as well as contacting other
51 local groups for funding.
52

53 Discussion was continued regarding funding prospects for this property. J. Beck reminded us
54 that after the sales price there are still other costs associated with this property annually.
55 Alan mentioned that S. Proctor will have a hard time developing this property so selling is the
56 better option. B. Hunter asked I. McSweeney if he would be willing to help us build a coalition
57 for this project. I. McSweeney said he would. He also said if the Commission can show S.
58 Proctor that you have made a real good effort and have money behind this offer, it would make
59 our position stronger. I. McSweeney suggested not to go too far without getting a commitment
60 and agreement in writing from S. Proctor. I. McSweeney suggested that Commission get S.
61 Proctor to have a professional appraisal done on the property by an unbiased outfit to share
62 with this group. After the appraisal the Commission can then see what number is needed to
63 be raised to try and buy it. I. McSweeney also suggested that maybe it could then be sugges-
64 ted to S. Proctor that a discount can be given for the purchase price. But again, I. McSweeney,
65 strongly suggested to put this into a commitment. I. McSweeney indicated he is willing to work
66 with us.
67

68 After a little more discussion, B. Hunter thanked I. McSweeney for joining us.
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- 70 • Update on Reservoir project and warrant article request: B. Hunter indicated that this committee was
71 broken up into sub-committees. Alan Preston, Bart Hunter and Chris Carter are on the committee
72 regarding the access road and parking. B. Hunter indicated that this area looks really good. There is
73 sand and gravel under the top layer and is not a big issue. He also indicated that they can use the old
74 logging landing for parking. C. Carter indicated during that meeting that they could possibly fit 40 cars
75 for parking. B. Hunter also indicated there is an old skidder road that comes out the northeast of the
76 peninsula. He indicated there is an area by the peninsula where they can clean up and use as
77 handicap access, as well as constructing a bridge to the island and putting picnic tables out. B. Hunter
78 also indicated there would be room to put more parking and a turn around so people can drop off and
79 return to the parking area.
80

81 B. Hunter indicated there is another committee looking at the legality of this project. He indicated there
82 the committee was really against having fires. He indicated he understood their feelings, but said that
83 people were having fires there for years and it is better to manage then forbid. He also indicated about
84 putting out fire rings, porta potties and picnic tables. B. Hunter indicated that if we really want to control
85 the area, a kiosk can be put up with information, and people who want to build a fire can get a permit
86 from the Fire Department. A. Preston indicated that the bridge would have to meet ADA requirements
87 and believed the town can do most of the work for minimal cost.
88

89 A. Preston indicated he got a letter from DES that there are not restrictions on swimming at this
90 property. He indicated that as long as there is over 10 acres this would be under the jurisdiction of the
91 Marine Patrol Unit. It was suggested that fish be stocked here for fishing. B. Hunter indicated that the
92 low flow- makes the water a little warm which is great for bass. Alan indicated we should only budget
93 for \$10,000 to start and put more money into it next year.
94

95 J. Beck asked if access could be limited to Wilton residents only. Alan indicated that if the property is
96 over 10 acres that would not be possible. However, you can have a boat access open to the public,
97 and a private beach open to residents only. Alan indicated there is a committee working on this.
98

- 99 • Russell Hill Bridge on Route 101 – Pony Bridge: J. Beck indicated that Jesse Salisbury had done
100 several articles on this bridge in the past. J. Beck suggested that we see if we can move the bridge to
101 a different location. She was informed that McMillan Construction out of Keene, NH had done some

102 work on this bridge in the past. Further discussion was had concerning the possibility of moving the
103 bridge and funding for this endeavor.

- 104
- 105 • Souhegan Sustainability Fair keynote speaker, WCC participation: J. Beck indicated she has a really
106 good committee together this year. Her content strategy is to get people to start thinking about what
107 they could do in their home, for their land, recycling, food and health issues. She indicated she would
108 be speaking to Brian Bagley and Tim O'Connell to get more teacher and student involvement. J. Beck
109 indicated that access for the exhibits will be through the gym area. They are planning on having
110 exhibits, presentations, demonstrations, workshops, and activities for outside. She also expressed
111 interest in bringing a farmers market to the fair. Discussion was had on other interests in the fair and
112 people who were willing to help. J. Beck suggested we have more promotion for the fair and that it
113 should involve the 6 towns in the watershed area of the river. She also indicated that she is designing
114 a new evaluation form so we can get a better sense of where the people are coming from.
115

116 J. Beck asked the question of the Commission if there is something else we want to do as sponsors –
117 i.e.: more maps, forms for volunteering, give aways, etc. She also suggested more ideas to show we
118 are proud to sponsor this fair and saying thank you to everyone who has helped.
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- 120 • Four Corners Farm and LCHIP
121 B. Hunter referred to a correspondence he received from Paula Bellemore, LCHIP. He indic-
122 ated that he wrote back to P. Bellemore that he believed it was the Heritage Commission's re-
123 sponsibility as we are responsible for the land and they are responsible for the buildings. B.
124 Hunter indicated he sent the form to LCHIP regarding the land. He also indicated that he has
125 asked to be put on the agenda for the Select board meeting. He also suggested that Lincoln
126 Geiger and Stanley Young be at this meeting.
127
- 128 • J. Stone asked B. Hunter regarding the missing USDA property monitoring reports. B. Hunter
129 said he had LCHIP send them the report. J. Stone indicated he would follow up with the
130 USDA.
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- 132 • J. Stone asked about the work session meeting with Spencer, Alan and himself for Friday. The
133 meeting will take place at the Fire Station at 10am.

134 **Old Business:**

- 135 • Minutes: Review **of the minutes** of the December 11, 2017 meeting. It was moved &
136 seconded by J. Beck and Alan Preston to accept the minutes. **The motion passed. [?? type**
137 **size changed here]**
- 138 • Budget & Expenditures: for 2018: B. Hunter indicated that the budget went through as submitted.
- 139 • ZBA: J. Stone indicated that he has not heard anything further about the church. He did indicate their
140 revised application was approved. J. Stone indicated that the case before the ZBA now concerned a
141 resident wanting to brew beer in a garden shed structure. A site walk was done and further discussion
142 will be had at tomorrow's meeting. J. Stone indicated there is no conservation interest.
- 143 • Planning Board: B. Hunter indicated we have already discussed the Quinn issue in new business.
- 144 • Frog Pond: J. Stone indicated there was nothing new to report. He did mention he was unable to
145 measure the weir output due to ice.
- 146 • Forest Management: Bill Mahar is not present to discuss.
- 147 • Wildlife Sightings: Les Tallarico indicated on various occasions seeing wild turkeys. J. Beck indicated
148 she saw an evening grosbeak.
- 149 • Property (LCHIP) monitoring: Carnival Hill. B. Hunter indicated this was addressed in new business.

150 **Miscellaneous:**

- 151 • Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee (SoRLAC): Bill Mahar was not in attendance at this
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Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded by J. Stone and J. Beck. **The motion passed.**
Chairman Bart Hunter **adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Vinton, WCC Recorder