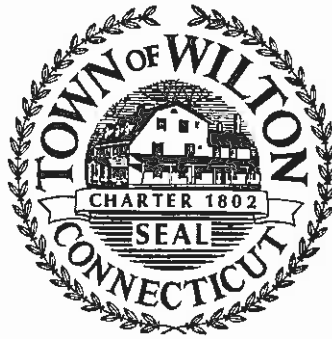


OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan  
*First Selectman*

Susan A. Bruschi  
*Second Selectman*

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011  
MEETING ROOM B, WILTON TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Bill Brennan, Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Hal Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter

**GUESTS:** Sandy Dennies, Sarah Taffel, Chief Paul Milositz, Pat Sesto, David Chaloux, Christopher Hodgson, four firefighters, Jan Andras

**OTHERS:** Matt Coyne (Villager), Craig Donofrio (Patch), Ken Zimmermann (Daily Wilton)

First Selectman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**A. Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Mr. Creeth, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows - (Mr. Clark abstained from approval the minutes as he was not present on 9/6/11):

Minutes

- Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting of 9/6/11

Tax Refunds

- Motor Vehicle Tax Refunds (overpayments) as per Tax Collector's Memo dated September 15, 2011.

**B. Discussion and/or Action**

1. Interpretation of CT General Statute §10-153d – Teachers Contract  
Mr. Brennan advised that there is nothing substantial to report at this time. We are trying to prepare a definitive statement. BOE Attorney Tom Mooney and the Town's labor attorney are preparing their opinions, which will then be consolidated into a policy by Town

Attorney Ken Bernhard. The Board of Selectmen will review the policy and get the opinions of the Board of Finance and Board of Education.

2. Report on grants obtained by Town

Ms. Dennies distributed audited FY10 grants received and has prepared a preliminary FY11. This will be presented in more detail at the 10/3/11 meeting.

3. Resolution with respect to the authorization, issuance and sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Matt Spoerndle of Phoenix Advisors advised that current lower rates could mean a substantial savings for the Town in debt service payments.

Mr. Creeth moved the Resolution With Respect To The Authorization, Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$15,000,000 Town of Wilton General Obligation Refunding Bonds (copy attached to these minutes). Motion seconded and carried: 5 YES – Brennan, Bruschi, Creeth, Clark, Hoffstatter.

4. Future Meeting Plans

The Selectmen will hold a special meeting on 9/28/11 at 7:30 pm to discuss economic development. A special meeting will be held on 10/12/11 to discuss senior tax relief. On 10/3/11, at 7:30 pm. there will be a public hearing on the proposed Wampum Hill Road scenic road designation.

5. Approval of Application for DEEP Urban Forestry Grant Funds

Patricia Sesto, Environmental Affairs Director advised that the grant funds being requested are in the amount of \$4,850.00 to be used by the Tree Committee for the 3-year tree management plan. Mr. Clark moved to approve the application for the DEEP Urban Forestry Grant Program. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

6. Approval of 2011 Deer Hunt Plan

Ms. Sesto advised that the 2011 Hunt Plan continues last year's approach – to suspend the controlled hunts on open space parcels and focus on encouraging homeowners to allow hunting on their property. Mr. Brennan moved to approve the 2011 Deer Hunt Plan (attached to these minutes). Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

7. Appoint of Gary Battaglia to Area Nine Cable Council

Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Mr. Gary Battaglia to the Area Nine Cable Council for a term to expire June 30, 2013. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

8. 2012 Employee Holiday Schedule

Mr. Clark moved to approve the 2012 Employee Paid Holiday Schedule, dated 9/19/11 (and attached to these minutes). Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

9. Reappointment of Animal Control Officer and Assistants

Mr. Brennan moved to reappoint Animal Control Officer Robert Napoleon and Assistants Herbert F. Roome, Clifford Caruso and Christopher Muir for a one year term to expire on October 1, 2012.

10. Fire Department Grievance Hearing

David Chaloux, Union 2233 President spoke on behalf of the firefighters who feel that their grievance was not solved with Step 1 of the process. Attorney Christopher Hodgson presented the opinion of management. Mr. Brennan advised that the Selectmen would enter executive session later in the meeting before taking any action.

11. Miscellaneous Other Business

Public Info Meeting – Hurricane Irene – A public information meeting will be held on 9/26 in the Brubeck Room at the Library, 7:30 pm, to solicit comments and suggestions from residents for improvement of response to future emergencies. Town officials, State Legislators and CL&P officials will be present.

FY '11 Budget – The numbers look very good for last year, although they are very preliminary and have not yet been audited. More detail will be available at the next meeting.

C. Public Comment: None noted

D. Reports

1. First Selectman's Report :

Halloween - The Town and Chamber of Commerce are partnering to present a Wilton Scarecrow Fest. Contestants will decorate scarecrows that will be attached to the lampposts in the village.

Wilton Train Station – Anthony Tecce of Wilton is the vendor chosen by the DOT to operate a food concession at the station. He plans to be open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. John Rich of Wilton will operate a shoe shine service at the station.

Burning – At the last meeting, Deborah MacFadden had asked for a suspension of the burning permit restrictions on size of wood that can be burned, due to the large trees and stumps left by Irene. The Fire Marshal, Police Chief and Health Director unanimously agree that this should not happen due to air quality and safety issues. Mr. Brennan reminded that town crews are still picking up storm debris that is left on the side of the roads.

## 2. Selectmen Reports

Mr. Bruschi: Asked if Cannondale station will also have a concession? Mr. Brennan advised that the DOT is still trying to find a vendor but that many feel there is not enough traffic at the station.

Mr. Hoffstatter: No report

Mr. Clark: No report

Mr. Creeth: On 9/24, the Wilton section of the Norwalk River Valley Trail system will be opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

- E. Executive Session: Mr. Brennan moved to enter executive session to discuss and consider the Fire Department Grievance and to invite HR Director Sarah Taffel to attend. Unanimously carried. The meeting entered executive session at 8:40 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:05 p.m. After careful deliberation on the facts presented by both parties, the Selectmen voted as follows: To deny – 5 yeas; To sustain – 0 yeas
- F. Adjournment: Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. p.m.

Jan Andras, Recording Secretary

attachments

**RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND  
SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$15,000,000 TOWN OF WILTON GENERAL  
OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS**

**RESOLVED:**

**Section 1.** Not exceeding \$15,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (the "Refunding Bonds") of the Town of Wilton, Connecticut (the "Town") may be issued in one or more series and in such principal amounts as the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer shall determine to be in the best interests of the Town for the purpose of achieving net present value savings and/or to moderate debt service payments. The Refunding Bonds are hereby authorized to refund all or any portion of any one or more series of the Town's outstanding General Obligation Bonds (the "Refunded Bonds"). The Refunding Bonds shall be issued and sold either in a negotiated underwriting or a competitive offering, and at such time or times as the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer shall determine to be most opportune for the Town. If the Refunding Bonds are sold in a negotiated underwriting, the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer shall approve and designate the underwriter. Each series of Refunding Bonds shall mature in such amounts and on such date or dates as shall be determined by the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer provided that no Refunding Bonds shall mature later than the final maturity date of the last maturity of any Refunded Bonds being refunded by such series. The Refunding Bonds shall bear interest payable at such rate or rates as shall be determined by the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer. The Refunding Bonds shall be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the manual or facsimile signatures of the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, and be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Bond Counsel. The Refunding Bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the Refunding Bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The aggregate denominations, form, details, and other particulars thereof, including the terms of any rights of redemption and redemption prices, the designation of the certifying, paying, registrar and transfer agent, shall be subject to the approval of the First Selectman and the Town Treasurer. The net proceeds of the sale of the Refunding Bonds, after payment of underwriter's discount and other costs of issuance, shall be deposited in an irrevocable escrow account in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of, interest and redemption premium, if any, due on the Refunded Bonds to maturity or earlier redemption pursuant to the plan of refunding. The First Selectman and the Town Treasurer are authorized to appoint an escrow agent and other professionals and to execute and deliver any and all escrow, investment and related agreements necessary to provide for such payments on the Refunded Bonds and to provide for the transactions contemplated hereby. The First Selectman and the Town Treasurer, are authorized to prepare and distribute preliminary and final Official Statements of the Town for use in connection with the offering and sale of the Refunding Bonds, and they are hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town a Bond Purchase Agreement, a Continuing Disclosure Agreement, a Tax Regulatory Agreement and such other documents necessary or desirable for the issuance of the Refunding Bonds and the payment of Refunded Bonds.

**Section 2.** This resolution shall be effective until June 30, 2012.

DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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B

TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conservation Commission

FROM: Deer Management Committee

DATE: August 9, 2011

RE: 2010 Deer Management Summary Report

The 2011 Deer Management Plan is an outgrowth of last year's new approach and a desire to resume the approach of the first seven years. In 2010, the committee opted to suspend the controlled hunts on open space parcels and instead focus on encouraging homeowners to allow hunting on their property. As acknowledged in the original Management Plan of 2001, hunting on town land would not be enough to address the problem of deer overpopulation. The first year of the matching homeowners and hunters was successful and justifies continuing again in 2011.

### Summary of 2010

In 2010 the effort to reduce the deer population was centered on matching homeowners and hunters. Through articles in the newspaper, letters to the editor, and the Conservation Commission newsletter, the Deer Committee publicized this initiative. With the cooperation of the Police Department, interested hunters were subjected to a background check and a proficiency test prior to being included on the list of available hunters. The office of the Deer Committee then distributed contact information to interested homeowners. In total, 19 hunters were included on the list to serve 36 interested property owners. At the end of the season, 114 deer were killed in Wilton, by all hunters. Due to a change in CT DEEP reporting requirements for hunters, it is not possible to know how many deer were harvested as a result of the committee's efforts.

This number, while encouraging for the first year of this effort, does not compare favorably against years with successful controlled hunts. In the four years from 2005 through 2008, the average harvest in Wilton by all hunters was 189. In 2009, the harvest dropped to 110 due to hunter reliability issues in

the controlled hunt and consequently prompted the committee to alter their approach. Given the limitations of committee staff time, the committee could not rework the controlled hunt and launch a neighbor to hunter match initiative. Accordingly, they chose to focus on the neighbor to hunter match.

At the end of the season, members of the committee attempted to make contact with participating property owners and hunters to gauge their level of satisfaction. In summary, the response was generally positive from those who contact was successful. A few property owners who signed up were subsequently deemed to have properties poorly suited for hunting. While this is disappointing, it is a testament to the hunters and the program, demonstrating that safety remains the top priority. There was also a minority of homeowners who did not see any indication that their hunters hunted their property and a minority of hunters did not return the call to participate in the survey.

The Fairfield County Deer Management Alliance also saw the completion and publication of an economic impact study for its member town. It is estimated that Wilton residents collectively spend some \$6 million dollars annually combating deer overabundance. These expenses are limited to deer repellents, fencing, landscape damage, and car accidents. It does not include expenses associated with Lyme disease, such as medical treatment, enhanced educational services resulting from chronic Lyme, days lost at work, etc. The Deer Committee finds this figure compelling and will be an influential component in the future if and when funds are sought for more assertive culling activities.

## **2011 Proposed Plan**

In the late winter of 2011, the CT DEEP repeated transects over Fairfield County to assess the density of deer. The study established that the deer density numbers have not changed for Wilton over the past two years, remaining at 60+ per sq. mi. While this is discouraging it is not wholly surprising; it reinforces the previous conclusion that controlled hunting on open spaces is insufficient to produce a change town wide. While Wilton's hunting efforts have not changed our overall town density, we do know the hunting has a positive impact on the hunted property and adjoining areas as discussed in previous year's reports of the Deer Committee.

In 2010, it was decided to suspend hunting on the big lands owned by the town and SNEW. These properties, while being productive in past years, were passed on to enable the committee's limited resources to be dedicated promoting hunting on private properties. The committee concluded that the since the open space properties had been hunted for seven years, the strides they made in ecological recovery would not be jeopardized by missing one year of hunting. Since promoting ecological recovery remains a high priority, the committee will resume hunting select properties again this year in conjunction with continued efforts to facilitate hunting on private land.

The open space parcels proposed for hunting are SNEW's City Lake Reservoir, Comstock property, and the adjoining properties of the Sackett Preserve and the Marble-Richards/VanHalewyn Preserve, owned by the town and Land Trust, respectively. These properties have been the most productive in the past and there is little known hunting on other nearby open space to detract from our efforts. The committee would like each property to have its own captain and cadre of hunters. Hunters will not necessarily be assigned to the same property year after year to discourage possessive thinking on the part of hunters. Other than this single change in managing the hunters, the successful protocol of previous hunts will be employed.

Hunters will again need to pass a background check and proficiency test in order to qualify for participation. 2010 hunters who did not respond to the survey or received a negative report from the property owner (i.e. failed to hunt the property) will not be eligible to participate. As has occurred in years past, the final hunt schedule will be shared with the Wilton P.D. and both the archery and firearms seasons will be utilized. No hunting on publically owned property will be allowed on days when school is not in session and all hunting will take place from tree stands. Hunters will be encouraged to donate excess venison to area foodbanks.

Lastly, the committee will extend its work on managing deer population to include soliciting help from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The DEEP has started working with Redding to assess their efforts, ongoing overabundance, and help devise a plan to move forward with. This assistance should be beneficial to Wilton as well.