OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100 Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: lynne.vanderslice@wiltonct.org



Lynne A. Vanderslice First Selectwoman

David K. Clune Second Selectman

Lori A. Bufano Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole Selectman

Deborah McFadden Selectwoman

TOWN HALL 238 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING Monday September 23, 2019 Meeting Room B, Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, David Clune, Lori Bufano, Joshua Cole,

Deborah McFadden

GUESTS: Chris Burney, Frank Smeriglio, Mike Conklin, Sarah Scacco, Sarah Taffel, Frank

Simone,

OTHERS: Members of the Press and Members of the Public

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 8:00pm.

B. Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mr. Clune seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Minutes

Board of Selectmen Meeting – September 9, 2019

Gifts

- Raymond Moscow Fire Dept. Gift Fund \$100.00
- Michele M. Stein Fire Dept. Gift Fund \$50.00

Ms. Vanderslice thanked all for their donation.

C. Discussion and/or Action

- Update on Guiderail Placement Standards Chris Burney and Frank Smeriglio
- 2. Guiderail Material Options Chris Burney and Frank Smeriglio
- Guiderail Scanning and Inventory Development Chris Burney and Frank Smeriglio
 Frank Smeriglio and Chris Burney of the Department of Public Works gave a review
 and update on Guiderails. Presentation is attached. Question and answer
 document along with engineer report is available on the Town website at
 www.wiltonct.org.

Ms. Vanderslice summarized and then opened the floor to public comment.

D. Public Comment

John Ottens of Wild Duck Rd commented on the Guiderails.

Jackie Durels of Wild Duck Rd commented on the Guiderails

Elaine Ottens of Wild Duck Rd commented on the Guiderails

Michael Powers of Glen Hill Rd commented on the Guiderails

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to move the Millstone Conservation Restriction Update to the next item on the agenda. Motion moved by Ms. McFadden, seconded by Mr. Clune and carried 5-0.

E. Discussion and/or Action

1. Millstone Conservation Restriction Update – Mike Conklin Mike Conklin of the Environmental affairs department gave an update on the Millstone Conservation Restriction (presentation attached).

Public Comment

Sarah McReynolds of Deer Run Rd commented on Millstone

Laurie Paulson of Turtleback Rd commented on Millstone

Gene Sato of Deer Run Rd commented on Millstone

John McReynolds of Deer Run Rd commented on Millstone

Ceci Maher of Sturges Ridge Rd commented on Millstone

Warren Howard of Millstone Rd commented on Millstone

Greg Hepner of Nod Hill Rd commented on Millstone

Mark Rice of Millstone Rd commented on Millstone

Scott Williams of Millstone Rd commented on Millstone

Susan DiLoreto of Belden Hill Rd commented on Millstone

Ms. Vanderslice noted the board will discuss further at the next BoS meeting.

The board took a small break at 10:04pm and went back into session at 10:10pm.

Senior Tax Relief Ordinance – Sarah Scacco
 Tax Assessor Sarah Scacco reviewed the Senior Tax Relief Ordinance (presentation attached).

Corneliu Popovici of Spectacle Lane commented on Senior Tax Relief Ordinance

After review, discussion and comment, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to have a public hearing on the Senior Tax Relief Ordinance to be held on October 7, 2019. Motion moved by Ms. McFadden seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

- 3. Wilton Land Trust Request for a Trail on Town Property Kate Throckmorton Kate Throckmorton presented the Wilton Land Trust Request for a Trail on Town Property (attached). After review Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to approve the request of the Land Trust for the Nick Parisot Memorial Trail through the town forest. Motion moved by Ms. Bufano, seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.
- 4. Police HQ Statement of Requirements David Waters & Patti Temple Dave Waters, co-chair of the Police HQ/Town Hall Campus Building Committee presented the recommended Police HQ Statement of Requirements, as prepared by the Police Commission and the Building Committee. Mr. Waters noted that the information being presented to the board is available to view along with other materials on the committee's website at www.wpdtownhallproject.org.

Mr. Waters also noted, an RFQ has been issued and on behalf of the committee. He hopes to provide the BoS with a recommendation for a design team to develop options at the October 21st meeting. Projected cost for preliminary design is approximately \$50,000. Due to the late hour, Ms. Vanderslice asked the BoS to submit questions in writing to be addressed at the October 7, 2019 meeting.

- NRVT Status of Wilton/Norwalk WilWalk Trail
 Ms. Vanderslice read the attached statement on behalf of NRVT Chairwoman Pat Sesto and herself regarding the NRVT.
- 6. Eversource Easement Utility Rights Tabled
- 7. Two Month Contract Extension Interim Fire Chief Geoffrey Herald Sarah Taffel Sarah Taffel reviewed the Two Month Contract Extension for Interim Chief Geoffrey Herald. She noted that the search for a new Fire Chief is still ongoing and the extension would give time to complete the process. Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to extend the contract for the Interim Fire Chief for two months. Motion moved by Mr. Cole seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.
- 8. 2020 Proposed Town Hall Employee Paid Holiday Scheduled Sarah Taffel Tabled
- New Vacancy Energy Commission Tabled
- Appointment Jeffrey Boehme Area 9 Cable Council
 Motion moved by Mr. Clune to reappoint Jeffrey Boehme to the Area 9 Cable
 Council. Motion seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

F. Selectmen's Reports

- 1. First Selectwoman
 - Update on Ambler Farm Public Private Partnership Agreement Discussions
 Mr. Clune excused himself and left the room for the discussion. Ms. Vanderslice read the attached statement on Ambler Farm.
 - Walk with Lynne tomorrow September 23, 2019 at noon starting at Merwin Meadows.

2. Selectmen

Ms. McFadden

Ms. McFadden reviewed upcoming community events.

Mr. Cole None.

Mr. Clune None

Ms. Bufano None.

G. Public Comment

None

H. Adjournment

Having no further business, Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Clune to adjourn meeting at 11:20pm. Motion was seconded by Ms. Bufano and carried 5-0.

Next Meeting - October 7, 2019

Jacqueline Rochester Recording Secretary Taken from Video

3 – Cable Guiderail with Steel Posts (TL-3)



Metal Beam Rail – Galvanized (TL-3)



Metal Beam Rail – Corten (Weathering) Steel (TL-3)



Box Beam Rail – Galvanized and Corten (Weathered Steel) (TL-3)







Metal Beam Rail - Powder Coated Galvanized Steel (TL-3)



Timber Rail with Steel Plate Backing (Steel Posts or Wood Post) (TL-3)

Timber Rail w/o steel backing (wood post)



Millstone Farm Conservation Restriction Update

MIKE CONKLIN
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

Restriction Background

- 2001 Town of Wilton paid property owner Tony Grassi \$2.2 million for the Conservation Restriction (CR).
- Recent owners (Fink Family)constructed things not in compliance with the CR.
- 2017 Millstone Property Holdings purchased the farm and worked with the Town and Land Trust to amend the CR.

Amendment Background

- 2018 Town of Wilton, Land Trust & Millstone agreed to the CR amendment
 - **Trail Modification**
 - Septic Clarification
 - Hoop House Permission
 - ▼ Indoor Riding Ring & Barn

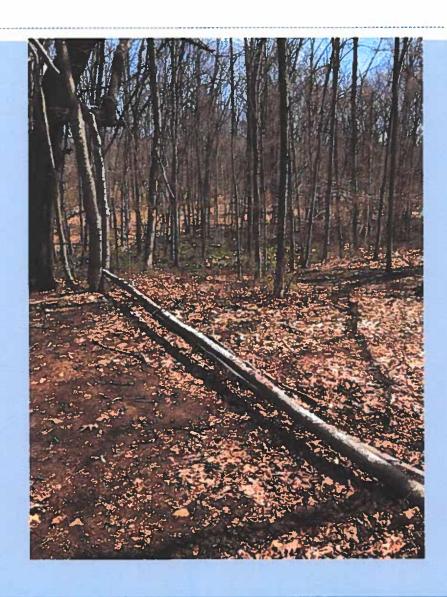
Trail Amendment

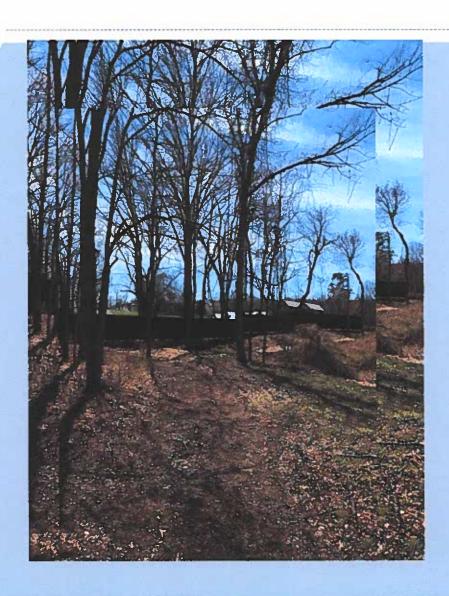
- May 31, 2018 Agreement to Modify Trails (AMT) not reached.
- Lynne Vanderslice granted an extension of deadline from June 11, 2018 to July 15, 2018.
- Fall 2019 Millstone built a new trail and contacted the Town to inspect and grant approval.

Trail Amendment

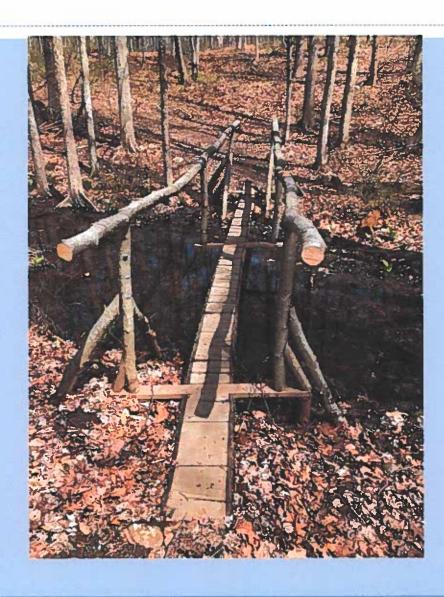
 January 2019 & April 2019 – New proposed trail was inspected by Frank Simone & Mike Conklin. See Report

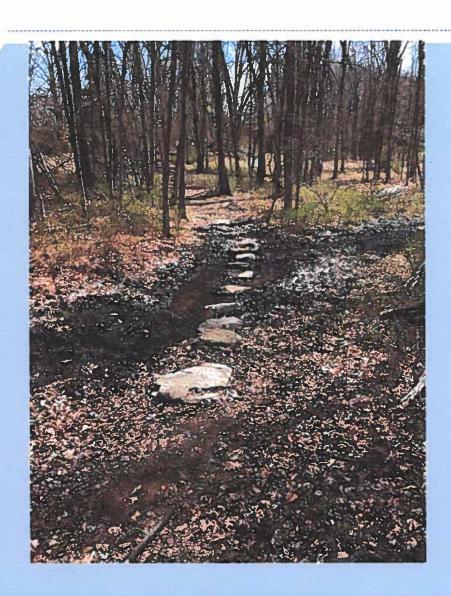
Existing Legal Trail is Blocked

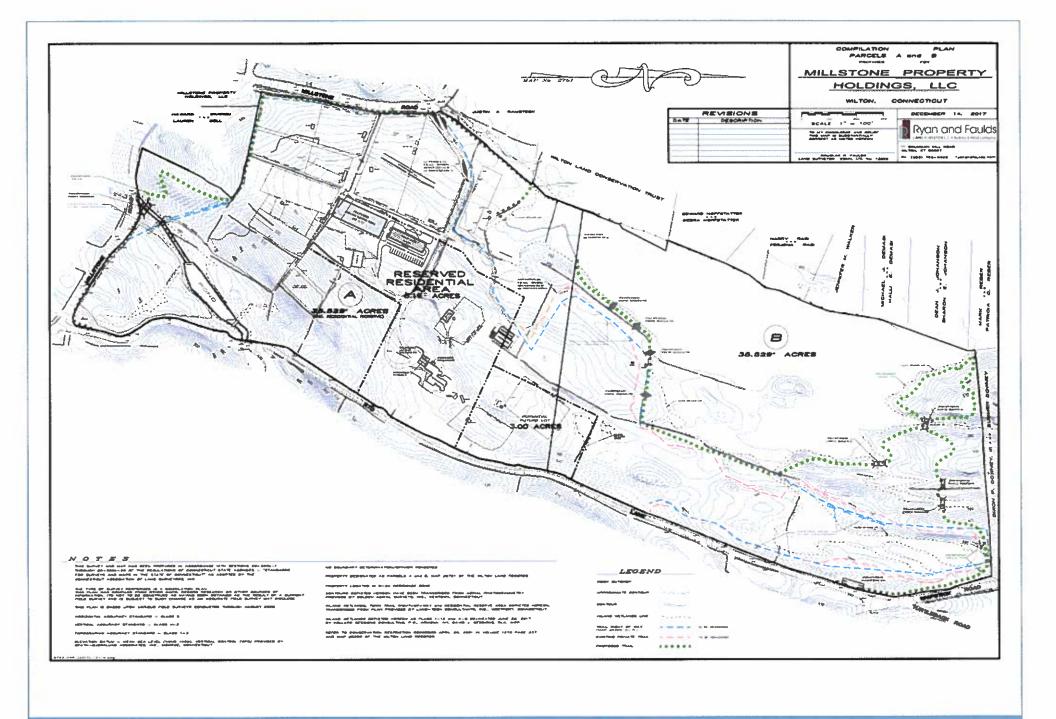




New Proposed Trail Inadequate for Public Use







OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR (203) 563-0121 Fax (203) 563-0293



TOWN HALL 238 Danbury Road Wilton, Connecticut 06897

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wilton Board of Selectmen

FROM: Sarah Scacco, Assessor

DATE: September 20, 2019

RE: Local Elderly Tax Relief Ordinance

In advance of a full reexamination of the Town Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Ordinance, I would like to request three immediate changes to ensure that the intent of the ordinance is being carried out and that all eligible applicants are able to participate.

The three proposed changes are as follows:

- 1. Create an appeal process for people who fail to file their applications by May 15th. Currently our Ordinance does not allow for any form of appeal process. There could be many reasons why someone might miss the deadline and currently the Town has no ability to address any of these issues.
- 2. Add a minimum tax credit of \$250. The current program uses a formula to determine the tax credit allowed based on the applicants income. Without a minimum or base credit we have had applicants being accepted into the program but only being eligible for \$1.00 credit.
- 3. To add the ability for the Board of Selectmen, or its designee, to re-adjust credit amounts for any unused budgeted funds for the tax credit or tax deferral program. This will allow the Town to ensure the total budgeted amount is being utilized as intended.

Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled

Proposed Amendments to Article 1 of Chapter 26A of the Wilton Town Code

Wilton Board of Selectmen Meeting September 23, 2019 Sarah Scacco, Assessor

Why am I here?

To outline a way in which we can better utilize funds already budgeted for elderly and disabled tax relief programs.



Comparison of Tax Credit Programs

Municipality	Income Limit	Credit Calculation	Program Credit Amounts	
New Canaan	\$60,000	Income Step Chart	\$1,000 - \$3,000	
Norwalk	\$66,200	Income Step Chart	\$180 - \$1,450	
Redding	No Requirement	Flat Credit	\$2,660	
Ridgefield	No Requirement	Flat Credit	\$1,048	
Weston	\$49,000 Formula		Majority between \$2,500 - \$3,000	
Westport	\$65,000	Income Step Chart	\$1,265 - \$4,428	
Wilton	\$83,400	Formula	\$1.00 - \$4,950	

Wilton's average tax credit for the October 1, 2018 Grand List was \$3,250



Comparison of Tax Credit Programs

Municipality	Income Limit	Program Credit Amounts	Wilton's Credit Amount with Town's Max Income
New Canaan	\$60,000	\$1,000 - \$3,000	\$1,737
Norwalk	\$66,200	\$180 - \$1,450	\$939
Redding	No Requirement	\$2,660	Income of \$54,440 = Credit of \$2,660
Ridgefield	No Requirement	\$1,048	Income of \$65,225 = Credit of \$1,048
Weston	\$49,000	Majority between \$2500 - \$3000	\$3,754
Westport	\$65,000	\$1,265 - \$4,428	\$1,074
Wilton	\$83,400	\$1.00 - \$4,950	

Proposed Amendment - Three Changes

- 1. Provide applicants with an Appeals Process
- 2. Create a Minimum Tax Credit of \$250
- 3. Allow for **Re-Adjustments of Credits** to better utilize budgeted funds

#1: Appeals Process

Applications must be filed annually between February 1st and May 15th

There is currently NO appeals process

If the deadline is missed the applicant would not be eligible for that year regardless of the situation

#2: Minimum Tax Credit

Qualifying Income		Tax Credit	
0	-	\$43,900	\$4,950
\$43,901	-	\$83,400	\$4,949 - \$1

Credits for applicants with income over \$43,900 are calculated using a formula defined in Section 26A-6

Income	Tax Credit
\$50,000	\$3,539
\$60,000	\$1,737
\$70,000	\$570
\$80,000	\$37

#3: Re-Adjustment of Credits

The re-adjustment of tax relief would provide a mechanism in which the Town can fully utilize these budgeted funds

Current amount of under utilized funds \$280,000

Once the minimum credits are readjusted and any potential appeals are realized, what is leftover could be re-adjusted back to all eligible applicants.

Summary of Changes

- Provide applicants with an Appeals Process
- 2. Create a Minimum Tax Credit of \$250
- 3. Allow for **Re-Adjustments of Credits** to better utilize budgeted funds

Financial Impact – 2018 Grand List

Proposed Change	Additional Cost	
Appeal Process	Up to You!	
Minimum Tax Credit	\$2,069	
Re-Adjustment of Credits	None!	

Questions?

Kate Throckmorton 294 Nod Hill Road Wilton, CT 06897

September 19, 2019

Wilton Board of Selectmen 238 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897

Re: The Nick Parisot Memorial Trail - Wilton Town Forest

Dear Board Members:

At the request of the Conservation Commission I am attending the September 23, 2019 Board of Selectmen's meeting to seek permission for the establishment of a walking trail, portions of which cross town lands. For your reference I have prepared this narrative overview of the trail with several attachments.

In 2017 my family and I began working with the Wilton Land Trust to create a memorial walking trail in honor of our son, Nick. The goal of the walking trail is to connect existing open spaces in north Wilton, in an east west connection, ultimately providing connections from Lewisboro to the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT). The Land Trust and our family are actively working to complete the "eastern" leg of the trail, from Tito Lane to the NRVT. To date trail development has included, a trail kiosk on Tito Lane, and two loop trails through the Wilton Land Trust properties on Tito Lane and the Slaughter Preserve. The physical trail development has and will continue to draw from funds donated to the Wilton Land Trust in Nick's name, as well as many volunteer work hours. The remaining portions of the "eastern" leg require crossing lands owned by the Town of Wilton.

Last June I gained permission from the Conservation Commission to utilize portion of existing trails in the Town Forest, and reestablish one section of trail to Piper Hill Road. In addition, I gained permission from the Norwalk River Valley Trail Steering Committee to establish a walking trail through the existing State Right of Way from Bristol Place north to Mountain Road. Portions of the trail will parallel Town Right of Ways along sections of Pipers Hill Road, Boulder Brook Road, Mountain Road and Bristol Place, therefore we have consulted and received supportive comments from the Police Commission and the Department of Public Works.

Our family hopes to secure your final blessing on the "eastern" leg of the trail so we may complete the missing connecting pieces this fall, and hope to return in the near future for the "western leg" of the trail.

Late Hou

Sincerely yours,

Kate Throckmorton Ltr to BOS 2019.wpd

List of attachments for Broad of Selectmen Nick Parisot Memorial Trail

- 1. Memo from the Conservation Commission to BOS
- 2. Wilton Land Trust Map with highlighted trail
- 3. Map of Town Forest with trail pathway noted.
- 4. Map of Piper's Hill connection reestablish (Town Forest)
- 5. Letter from the Land Trust regarding maintenance of yellow trail in Town Forest.

List of attachments BOS 2019.wpd

CONSERVATION COMMISSION Telephone (203) 563-0180 Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL 238 Danbury Road Wilton, Connecticut 06897

MEMORANDUM

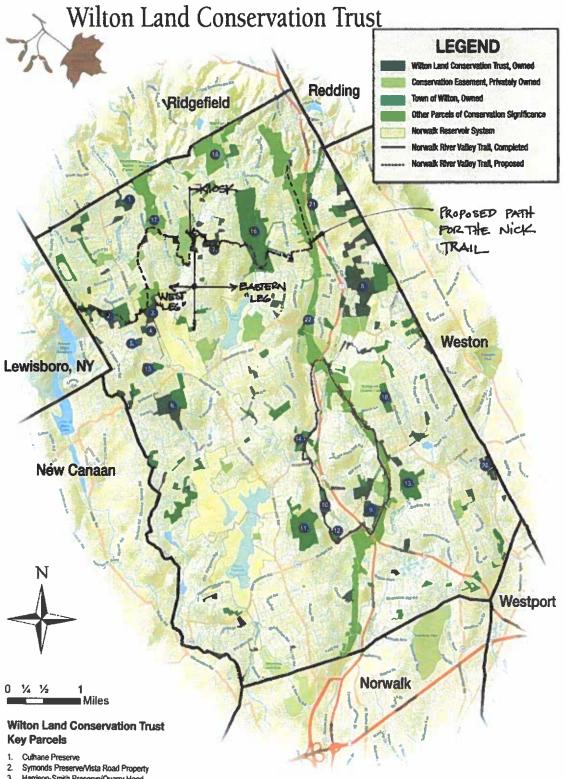
TO: Board of Selectman

FROM: Conservation Commission

DATE: June 24, 2019

RE: Memorial Trail for Nick Parisot

The Conservation Commission has APPROVED the Wilton Land Conservation Trust's (WLCT) proposal to utilize portions of the Town Forest to build a memorial trail for Nick Parisot, as presented by Kate Throckmorton on June 5, 2019. By way of this memo, the commission is forwarding the request (attached) to the Board of Selectman for approval. The Commission has asked to obtain a final trail map by the WLCT prior to allowing the actual location to be built.



- 3. Harrison-Smith Preserve/Quarry Head
- 4. Walter Preserve
- Keeler's Ridge Meadow
 Marbie/Van Haelewyn-Richards Preserve/Sackett Preserve
- 7. Staughter Fields
- Gregg Preserve/Belknap Preserve
 Spencer-Rice Preserve
- 10. Schenck's Island

Other Town of Wilton Parks

- 11. Bradley Park 12. Horseshoe Pond
- 13. Cherry Land Park
- 14. Merwin Meadows
- 15. Kent Pond
- 16. Town Forest

Other Land of Conservation Value

- 17. Woodcock Nature Center
- 18. Weir Farm National Historic Site/Weir Preserve
- 19. Ambler Farm
- 20. Stonebridge Wild Fowl Preserve
- 21. Lion's Field
- 22. Norwalk River Valley Trail, proposed corridor



Map created on 10/22/17 by Mike Moran GIS Analyst

Directions: From Wilton Center, go north on Rte. 33 for 2 miles.

Turn right on Nod Hill Road and travel 2.7 miles to Partrick Lane. Follow Partrick Lane to Boas Lane and

the Town Forest parking area.

Acreage: ±192

Parking: At Boas Lane and Branch Brook Road

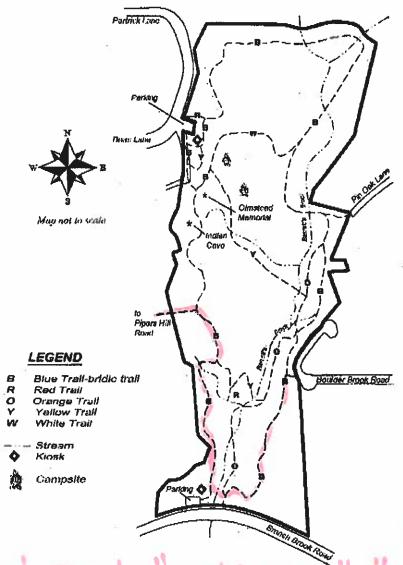
Access: Boas Lane, Pin Oak Lane, Boulder Brook Road,

Branch Brook Road

Trails: East trail 0.75 miles orange

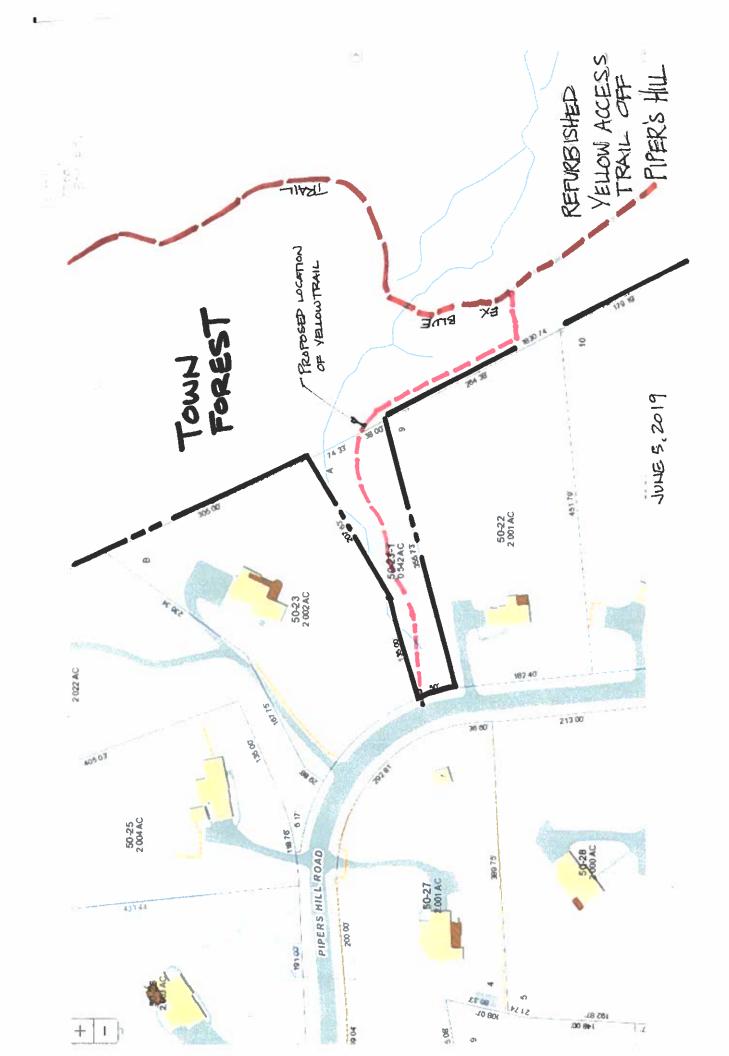
Bridle trail 2.3 miles blue X-Over/ Access trails yellow

Ownership: Town of Wilton



6.3.19

Revised Route Nick Trail





WILTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

August 19, 2019

Mr. Michael P. Conklin Director of Environmental Affairs Wilton Town Hall 238 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897

Craig E. Johnson Vice President

Peter W. Gaboriault

TRUSTEES

President

Re: Nick Parisot Trail, Pipers Hill Road

Thomas B. Harris

Treasurer

Stephen H. White Secretary

Brett D. Amero
Bruce E. Beebe
Jay M. Dulberg
Michael Foster
Dawn Bennett Ladenheim
Frank Mabley
William L. Maxwell
Sherry McReynolds
Robert H. Russell, Jr.
Robert E. Sollmann Jr.
Roger R. Valkenburgh

Anthony P. Grassi Thomas M. Sinchak Trustees Emeritus

Donna R. Merrill

Executive Director

Dear Mike:

This letter shall confirm that the Wilton Land Conservation Trust will take full responsibility for all maintenance of the proposed Nick Parisot Trail that will run from Pipers Hill Road into the Town Forest.

Regards,

Peter W. Gaboriault President

Statement on the Norwalk River Valley Trail

Wilton's Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) is one the community's best-loved amenities. Every day 200 residents and visitors use the trail, which was funded 100% through private donations.

Four years ago, the NRVT steering committee secured a \$1.3 million grant from the State to assist in the design and construction of nearly six miles of new trail from Wolfpit Road in Wilton to Grist Mill Road in Norwalk. This grant, which was jointly awarded to the Town of Wilton and the City of Norwalk, requires a \$275,000 match that generous donors from Wilton and Norwalk have already contributed.

Unfortunately, construction of the trail has not been able to proceed due to a requirement by the State to have the Town of Wilton and the City of Norwalk each enter into a lease for the 30-foot wide "ribbon" of state-owned land in which the trail will be built. The proposed lease requires each municipality to assume liability for pre-existing conditions within the ribbon of land within their town. This would include liability for the cleanup of any existing hazardous materials.

The other three municipalities, through which the 30-mile trail will run, will also be required to execute the same lease. In addition, Wilton is being required to execute the lease for the existing trail, which had been built under a permit previously issued by the State.

The trail is and was intended to be a regional and state asset to be enjoyed by all residents of and visitors to Connecticut.

Representatives of the NRVT steering committee, the Town of Wilton, and the City of Norwalk have been working for more than a year, on behalf of all five communities, to obtain a waiver from the pre-existing conditions clause. We have the support of all the State Senators and State Representatives from the five communities. Senators Haskell and Duff and Representative Lavielle have been active advocates on our behalf, attending meetings and speaking directly with key individuals in Hartford. We are very appreciative of their efforts and those of others within state government.

The \$1.3 million grant has a fast approaching expiration date. The steering committee has filed for an extension and are confident in its approval. But until and unless a waiver is received, any additional work on constructing the 30-mile length of the trail is suspended and the committee will have to consider its fiduciary responsibilities to their donors and take steps to reduce expenses.

We anticipate a meeting with key state officials within two weeks. We are hopeful the meeting will result in a swift resolution and allow for construction of the trail to continue.

We appreciate the Wilton community's continued support and look forward to sharing good news in the future.

Patricia Sesto Chairman Norwalk River Valley Trail Lynne Vanderslice First Selectwoman Town of Wilton

Status of the Amber Farm Public Private Partnership Agreement Discussions:

Just to review some history, more than 10 years ago, the town began discussions with Friends of Ambler Farm about a Public Private Partnership Agreement (PPA) to document in detail the relationship between the Town, as the owner of Ambler Farm, and the Friends of Ambler Farm, who operate the property on behalf of the Town.

Ongoing discussions in early 2009 and summer of 2009 are documented in April and June BOS minutes. The discussions did not continue. It is my understanding is that was because other matters became more pressing.

In 2017, then new Town Counsel and I met with Friends of Ambler Farm representatives to jump start the PPA discussions. Those discussions and the sticking points were discussed by me a year ago at our September 17th BOS meeting, which anyone interested in the facts can watch on video. At that meeting, we sought to address two of the sticking points, parking for the soccer fields and Friends of Ambler Farm's ability to continue to independently address the financial needs of the property. We agreed to have an engineering study performed for the expansion of the parking lot and authorized an application for an amendment to the special permit under which the property operates. In the meantime, some intermittent discussions continued.

The special permit application was heard and a decision made by P&Z earlier this year. The cost to expand the parking is much more than we anticipated and Steve Pierce will discuss that during the FY2021 budget discussions. Despite the latter, we are still moving forward on the PPA discussions.

There have been misrepresentations by certain members of the public, presumably because of the word **private** being in the term Public Private Partnership Agreement, that this is an agreement by the town to privatize Ambler Farm. That is inaccurate. A PPA is an agreement between a public entity, the Town of Wilton and a private entity, the nonprofit Friends of Ambler Farm. An example, the town current PPA with the Wilton Library Association. In the case of the Library, the Town does not own the property, but the town does provide a grant to the Wilton Library Association for more than 70% of their annual costs to operate the Library.

Once we have a draft, it will be presented to the Board.