

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
Chester Town Hall
4:30 PM March 7, 2024

Members: Lisa Wahle, Rick Holloway, Sandy Prisloe, Ted Taigen, Kate Hair*, Lisa Hayward (*= not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the meetings on Feb 1, Feb 16, and March 1 were approved unanimously.

2. Audience of citizens: None

3. Correspondence: None.

4. Old Business

- a. **Envirotips.** Lisa H is preparing a tip on the American Woodcock ("Timberdoodle")
- b. **Sustainable Chester Updates**
 - (1) Kim Price is trying to make this a major educational event, enlisting youth groups.
 - (2) With help from Rotary, Rotary Regional District, and the Community Fund for Middlesex County, they plan to purchase 80 aluminum frames to support clear collection bags. These will be available for additional events, such as the Lobster Fest.
 - (3) The EV charging station is planned to go in at the Maple Street lot.
 - (4) Discussion about a more permanent pizza box recycling receptacle near Little House.
- c. **Earth Day** (April 20th) Ted has ordered 100 pollinator plants from Town and Country Nurseries (paid for by Rotary and CCC). There will be a table and tent located on Main Street. CCC members were encouraged to help out. Jan Taigen is organizing activities for children. Energea and Bekah Wright organizing multiple other events downtown, April 20, 1 – 4 PM and April 21.
- d. **Cedar Lake Watershed Commission** - No new report
- e. **Old County Road parcel conservation easement.** Application is before IWWA. IWWA Chair and Officer told Lisa W that the letter submitted by the CCC will be acknowledged in the IWWA minutes.
- f. **Fire house parking lot expansion.** There was general agreement that this is not a good idea, environmentally nor fiscally. **Rick** will draft a letter to be sent to the BoS. Lisa W will speak with Jeff Jacobson about the existing plan and possible modifications.
- g. **Open space map and NRI progress.** Mapping progress being made - see minutes from March 1. Next special meeting will be March 29 at 1 PM.

New Business

- a. Chester Events 2nd Quarter. Lisa W will submit article about rodenticides and wildlife.
- b. Kate will be attending the CLCC meeting on March 23
- c. The commission voted to approve the corrections to the by-laws (4 yr. terms not 3 yr.)
- d. The BOS voted to table discussions for the trail between Laurel Hill and NQP. The Conservation Commission had submitted comments in Oct. 2023 when this proposal was before the Inland Wetlands & Watercourse Agency.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 PM.

Next meeting April 4, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway and Lisa Wahle