

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30PM, May 4, 2017

Members: Rick Holloway*, Sandy Prisloe, Peggy Wilson, Pat Woomer, Margot Burns, Ted Taigen
(* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM

Minutes: of the April 2017 meeting were unavailable.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence:

None to report.

Old Business (# = carryover item)

1. **Chester Sunday Market:** The commission discussed plans for a rain barrel display at the June 18th Sunday Market. Ted and Pat had assembled a rain barrel from readily available parts. The barrel, along with a set of instructions on how to construct it, will be on display along with an off-the-shelf rain barrel from the RI Water Lady. Sandy will look into reserving a table for a second date to display information on local "critters" and how to provide or improve habitat for them. The commission will give away blue bird house kits, display an easy to build bat house, provide info on flowering plants to aide threatened butterfly populations, etc. The commission decided to get a banner to use at this and similar events. # **Sandy** to Make arrangements.

2. **E- Team Report:**

a. Pat reported that the contract with Tanko to convert street lights to LEDs has been signed. Sample LEDs will be installed for residents to view and comment on before any decision is made as to replacement LED bulb color and color temperature.

b. Pat reported that the E-Team is getting close to selecting a vendor to recommend to the BOS for a solar array on the Chester Elementary School. The array will provide about half the school's electricity needs through a Power Purchase Agreement at a significantly lower cost than currently is the case.

3. **Enviro Tips:** Peggy will look into promoting the Household Hazardous Waste Collection days.

4. **Recycling Outreach:** Margot suggested that members look into a movie titled "Plastic Paradise" about the worldwide problems with increasing amounts of plastic waste and that maybe the commission should sponsor a showing and discussion this fall.

5. **Cedar Lake Watershed Committee:** Ted reported he had attended an earlier meeting with Rick and will continue to do so as the commission's alternate member.

6. **Phragmites eradication:** nothing to report. # **Sandy** to check with Rich Snarski and David Roach about possibilities.

7. **Stormwater Catch Basin marking:** nothing to report

8. **Sustainability/Chester Go Green:** nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Margot had contacted Jenny Dixon (DEEP) about having another bat program, similar to the one hosted by the Chester Land Trust a few years ago. Had not heard back so will follow up.

Ted briefed the commission on some strategic planning that the Rotary Club recently did and the Club's desire to engage with civic partners on a wide variety of activities. One idea that Ted discussed was to develop access to Chester Creek (viewing platforms, boardwalk/trail system) for residents and visitors. Rotary may be able to acquire match grant funds for activities such as this. Commissioners were very supportive. # **Ted** will pursue.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.
Next meeting June 1, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,