

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30PM, June 1, 2017

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

Meeting called to order at 4:36 PM

Minutes: of the May meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: None to report.

Old Business (# = carryover item)

a. Chester Sunday Market: **June 18.**

(1) Pat provided the equipment lists for both RainBarrelLady (\$80) or do-it-yourself (\$30 plus barrels extra) models. He will have sample 2-barrel rain barrel for display. Ted will generate directions to be available as a handout. Sandy will purchase a 6- or 8-foot "Chester Conservation Commission" banner available. MOTION approved to spend up to \$150 for this.

(2)Helpers will plan to set up at 9:-00 AM on Sunday 6/18.

b. Bluebird house construction Project.

(1)Sandy will follow up with Sue Hotkowski to reserve table or canopy space at a later market. Sandy has constructed two models using the DEEP-provided materials. Sandy will notify us if further assistance needed in assembling materials for house kits.

(2) We will plan to have additional materials available on bat houses, butterflies, as well as invasive plants and possible native substitutes.

c. E-Team Report

(1) Streetlight audit and ID completed in 3 days. Next step is review of data.

(2) Elementary solar system expansion will provide 1/2 of school's power needs.

(3) Insulation of Meeting House ceiling this summer should save \$500-\$800 per year in fuel costs.

(4) Underground oil tank will not be removed until boilers are replaced.

(5) Working on providing IES Home Energy Surveys and Services to Cherry Hill (low-income housing)

(6) Controls for irrigation at war memorial should reduce weekly water use from 3,600 gallons/week to 480 gals/week.

(7) We have 88 points towards our next \$5000 Bright Ideas Grant -- 12 points to go.

d. Enviro Tips. Peggy will expand discussion of gypsy moth control by spraying pesticides (including impact on adjacent wetlands). Future topics were developed.

e. Recycling outreach . Nothing new

f. Cedar Lake Watershed Committee. First of 3 postcards ready for mailing to all town residents. This first one deals with care and inspection of septic tanks. Second with fertilizer runoff.

g. Phragmites eradication - Chester Creek. Nothing new.

h. Stormwater catch basin marking -- nothing new.

i. Sustainability/ChesterGoGreen -- nothing new.

j. Chester Rotary Club project. Ted will inquire about status of the nature trail behind the elementary school.

New Business: None

Carry-Over Items

Ted will contact MIRA, which runs the recycling center, to see that they can provide for improving recycling. Margot to ask Janice E (RiverCog) to see if they have additional information.

Margot will ask the Natural Resources Conservation Group to advise as to whether glyphosphates pose a threat to trees in the area to be treated for Phragmites.

Sandy will contact Dick Harald of Chester Land Trust to see if he has a copy of the management plan for Chester Creek which was prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Margot will see what is available from the EPA on stormwater drain markings.

Ted will talk to Charlene Janecek about possibilities for use of sale of the leaf and manure composing pile at the Chester Fairgrounds.

Margot will talk to Jenny Dixon (DEEP) about having another bat program, similar to the one hosted by the Chester Land Trust a few years ago.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Next meeting July 6, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway