

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30PM, August 3, 2017

Members: Rick Holloway, Sandy Prisloe, Peggy Wilson\*, Pat Woomer, Margot Burns\*, Ted Taigen, Lisa Wahle

(\* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:36 PM

**Minutes:** of the June 1 meeting were approved.

**Audience of citizens:** None

**Correspondence:** Letter of thanks received from Amy Paterson, CT Land Conservation Council

### Old Business

#### a. Projects

- (1) Discussion of adding a "Projects" section to the CCC website, with links to rain barrels, bird houses, recycling, Cedar Lake Watershed Commission.
- (2) **Rain Barrels:** **Pat** will scan and add information from handouts at the Chester Sunday Market. **Ted** will add description of assembly, and **Sandy** will add photos and get information to Jenny for inclusion on the website.
- (3) **Bird Houses:** **Sandy** has already cut up the wood (from DEEP). He will speak with the Library Board about setting up a program on "Providing food and shelter for backyard birds." in October. **Lisa** will contact Potapaug chapter of Audubon Society to see if they can provide a presenter.
- (4) **Ted** will provide to Peggy for the Envirotips information on when to put out bird feeding stations .

#### b. Clean Energy Task Force (E-Team)

- (1) The E-Team is concentrating on the Streetlight conversion project.
- (2) Addition of more solar panels to the elementary school has been delayed until 2018, although parts of the project, such as tree trimming, may be done in the meantime.

c. Updating of Chester's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is to start soon. The Conservation Commission will provide input on sustainability.

#### d. Recycling:

- (1) It was agreed that the information provided on the Town's website is superior to that from AllWaste. **Ted** will contact Recycle Connecticut (who supplied the Town's information) for permission to create poster-size versions to place at Town Hall, the library, the Elementary School and downtown.

#### e. Cedar Lake: (CLWC)

- (1) The first of four informational postcards will be mailed next week. It addresses care of septic systems in the watershed.
- (2) The CLWC met with a representative from a company which provides many weed control options. The CLWC is preparing a recommendation to the Town for a long-term plan to manage vegetation in the lake.

#### f. Phragmites control

- (1) The CCC reviewed a management guide provided by Margot Burns. Sandy has discussed the issue of Phragmites on Chester Land Trust (CLT) properties with Priscilla Robinson, president of the CLT. The goal is to take action now to prevent further spread of the invasive.

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g. Composting

Ted has spoken with Selectman Charlene Janecek about the materials (mostly leaves, wood chips and animal waste from the Chester Fair) which has been dumped on a steep slope above Chester Creek. Nutrient-rich runoff from this pile is a problem because it runs directly into the Creek. The CCC will work towards solving this problem.

h. Marking stormwater drain grates:

Margot had sent information on various markings to members of the CCC. This will be pursued at a future meeting.

### **Carry-Over Items**

# **Margot** will ask the Natural Resources Conservation Group to advise as to whether glycol phosphates 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 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 6:00 PM.

Next meeting September 7, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. P. Holloway