

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30PM, October 5, 2017

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

(* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM

Minutes: of the September 7, 2017 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: Copies of The Habitat. the Inland Wetlands agency has approved sharing the cost of renewed membership in CACIWC.

Old Business

a. Bluebird House Project: October 29 at 3:00 PM

(1) **Lisa** will bring a projector and will speak with Matthew Male to determine hardware (e.g. cables and connectors) needs.

(2) **Ted** will put together handouts (a bio of the speaker) for the event.

(3) MOTION made and approved to pay an honorarium of \$100 from the CCC budget. Sandy will have a check.

(4) **Lisa** will bring cider and cookies and cups.

(5) **Sandy** will arrange for copies of plans, assembly and mounting instructions,

(6) **Rick** to inquire whether Rotary or the Town hall has raffle tickets if needed for distribution of the approx 20 kits.

(7) We will **all** plan to be there at 2:00 to set up.

b. E-Team report:

a. Streetlights will be modified to LED's in October.

b. New boilers to be installed in Meeting House next week.

c. The first 3 Home Energy Solutions assessments and weatherizations will take place at Cherry Hill low income housing project on Oct 20th. More assessments to follow.

c. Envirotips: Suggestions include: (1) Cleaning bird feeders, (2) septic tank pumpouts, (3) info on the storm drain monitoring program.

d. Recycling Outreach: Discussion about some shredders also cut up credit cards and CDs. Not seen as a problem since these material are separated during processing of paper.

e. Cedar Lake Watershed committee.

(1) CT Federation of Lake meeting 14 October in Goshen. It appears that no-one from the CLWC will be able to attend.

(2) Good response to Postcard mailings.

(3) Discussion of how to take a positive approach to getting residents to have their septic tanks pumped out every 5 years.

(4) Town Sanitarian has not been able to provide information on water testing beyond coliform levels. Reportedly measurements of nitrates and phosphates have also been taken.

(5) A decision will be made at the next meeting of the CLWC about extent of hand pulling vs hydroraking.

(6) **Rick** to investigate generation of a spreadsheet or map indicating status of pumpouts.

f. **Phragmites eradication:** Nothing new to report.

g. **Stormwater Catchbasin marking.** The program requires an element of public outreach. **Rick** to talk to Wade at Jacobson Engrg about how CCC can help.

- h. **Sustainability/ Chester GoGreen.** Nothing new to report.
- i. **Updates to CCC website.** Nothing new to report.

f. OPEN ITEMS

(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.

(2) 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.

- (3) # **Margot** will ask the Natural Resources Conservation Group to advise as to whether glycoposphates pose a threat to trees in the area to be treated for Phragmites.
- (4) # **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.
- (5) # **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.

(6) Marking stormwater drain grates:

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.

Next meeting November 2, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway