

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
4:30 PM, February 1, 2018

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

(* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM

Minutes: of the December 2017 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. PoC&D Concerns

Discussion of the process for revising the PoCD. The revision committee is comprised of committee heads from all town commissions. Contractor Malone and McBroom have been contracted to coordinate the process.

-- over 450 responses to the town survey. A summary of the results can be viewed at weknowwhereitis.com.

-- Although many of the CCC's concerns were addressed in the survey, the CCC expressed interest in the following more specific topics:

- Management of invasive plants (phragmites, Japanese knotweed, hydrilla, water chestnut))
- A way to provide walkways around Chester Creek and to Deep River
- Stewardship of municipal open spaces
- Conservation of open space (e.g. conveyance tax)
- Means to address climate change on a local level (e.g expanded solar power -- roofs, carports, paving)
- Recycling and composting
- Education to prevent contamination of waterways
- Preservation of a varied habitat for wildlife
- Improved safety for bicycling and walking

b. Plans for a Spring Workshop

Selection of Jane Seymour as the speaker (Lisa has sent a link to one of Jane's slideshows). Lisa will distribute a bio and proposed outline.

Selection of March 25th as the preferred date, 3:00 PM as time. Meeting House is reserved for this.

Discussion of purchasing at least 1 pound of native wildflower seed mix, to be divided and placed into small packets for distribution as samples to attendees. Lisa will ask Chester Garden Club president (Brenda Johnson) if they are willing to share the cost.

Publicity via Chester Land Trust (Jenny Kitsen), Chester Garden Club, Town-wide newsletter, Valley Courier (Rick to mention to Rita Christopher selection of Lisa as "Person of the Week")

New Business

a. Election of officers. The following were proposed and elected as officers for 2018:
Sandy as Chairman
Rick as Vice-Chair and recording secretary.

b. Article for Chester Events (due March 15, Publish April 9th)

OPEN ITEMS (To be discussed for clearance at the next CCC meeting - March 2018)

(1) Recycling 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 glycophosphates 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 to speak with the Town Crew about what they find in catchbasins during cleanouts.

(6) # 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.

Adjournment 6:15 PM

Next meeting March 1, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway