

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, April 5, 2018

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

(* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM

Minutes: of the March 12, 2018 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. Review of March 25th workshop

The March workshop was a great success. Most of the visuals from Jane Seymour's presentation can be found by googling the website "Belding Wildlife Management Area."

Only issue was that some people had difficulty hearing all the presentation.

Rick will investigate how the audio system may be used.

Peggy will recommend to the Chester public library that they obtain a copy of the book recommended by the speaker: Brininging

b. Storm Drain stenciling plans

The Commission was enthusiastic about the "New Zealand Fish" marking. Sandy will be asked to see where these might be obtained or manufactured. They will need to be paced where snow plows will not destroy them.

c. PoCD issues/concerns

— The CCC had recently received information on the "Sustainablect" program. Chester is not yet registered. MOTION made and approved: to request that Lauren register Chester in this program.

— We are planning to propose that specific elements from each of the 9 categories of this program be incorporated into appropriate sections of the PoCD. See about interns under New Business (below).

— Discussion about having the Conservation Commission or an open subcommittee of it taking the lead for following the specific elements to ensure that they get done.

d. Clean Energy Task Force Report

— The contract has been signed for installing solar panels atop the CES. A meeting with representatives from Aegis will take place later in the month to consider how the existing, town-owned system will be transferred to the roof of the Town Hall.

— The E-Team is working on scheduling final steps of Phase I of the street light conversion program.

— Discussion about providing appropriate lighting for the Maple Street parking lot. In the short run, the existing post-top lamps will be used, but with higher intensity bulbs. A long-term solution will be included with planning for the Main Street Project.

— Discussion about lighting for the Water Street parking lot.

New Business

a. Chester Sunday Market.

Discussion about hosting an information booth later in the summer. Nothing was decided.

b. River COG.

— Two interns have been assigned to RiverCOG to work on sustainability programs over the summer. We will discuss at the next meeting what specific tasks they might be able to help us with.

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 glycolphosphates 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 5:35 PM

Next meeting May 3, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway