

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, May 3, 2018

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

(* = not in attendance)

Guest: Chris Hayward (from Cedar Lake Watershed Committee).

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM

Minutes: of the April 5, 2018 meeting were approved, with the clarification that the book recommended at the March 25th workshop was Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy. <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: Copies of The Habitat were distributed.

Old Business

a. Storm Drain stenciling plans

Discussion of various designs and placement of stencils on storm drains. Chris Hayward from the Cedar Lake Watershed Committee mentioned that that committee was enthusiastic about participating in this effort to keep our waterways pristine. **Chris** will work with Margot to provide a recommendation for design and costs for next month's CCC meeting. **Ted** will investigate what financing may be available from the CLWC.

Rick will see if any scouts would be interested in participating in marking the drain covers.

Peggy will draft an article to inform the public about stormwater pollution for the next Chester Events, and will coordinate publishing of articles in the weekly town e-mail blast as well as the Valley Courier once the marking is complete.

b. Envirotips.

Peggy mentioned an article about effective knotweed control which appeared in the Valley Courier April 12th. She will use this as a basis for a future Envirotip.

c. PoCD updates/issues/concerns.

Information from the April workshops is posted on the town website [weknowwhereitis.org](http://www.weknowwhereitis.org). Of particular interest to the CCC: stewardship of open spaces, encouragement of walking, nature trails.

Discussion of creating an interpretive sign for the location in Laurel Hill cemetery which overlooks Chester Creek (the Cove).

d. Report from the CLWC; Hydroraking of selected areas in Cedar Lake was completed last week.

e. Clean Energy Task Force Report

The E-Team has been concentrating on installation of solar panels on the roof of the elementary school.

f. **Rick** to followup on getting Chester registered on the Sustainability website (See last month's minutes).

New Business

a. Chester Sunday Market.

The CCC has reserved a place for a tent on Sunday June 24th. At our next meeting we will discuss what information to provide, e.g. posters on recycling and the stormwater drains project. We should plan to have a nearby drain basin stenciled or painted for the occasion.

b. **MOTION** made, seconded and approved to reimburse Lisa for expenses she funded for the Pollinators talk: \$75 for seed packets, and \$18.35 for refreshments.

c. Ted expressed concern about the dumping of woodchips and assorted organic materials over the bank at the Fairgrounds which overlooks Chester Creek.

OPEN ITEMS (To be discussed for clearance at the next CCC meeting - June 7, 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 glyphosphates 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 June 7, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway