

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, July 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 June 2018 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: Membership renewal to CT Land Conservation Trust. MOTION: to approve renewing membership using the funds in our approved budget. Approved. Margot abstained since she is on the board of the organization.

Old Business:

- a. June 24 Sunday Market at community table was successful.
- b. Storm Drain Stenciling. Sandy provided 8 x 12 sheets showing all 527 catch basin locations. We will select 100-200 for marking. Scouts not able to help (safety concerns). Stencils have been ordered. Once they arrive, we will schedule a test run. We will need additional materials: spray paint, safety vests, traffic cones. Can these be supplied by the town Public Works dept?
- c. Envirotips. Peggy doing an excellent job with these. It was noted that the Envirotips satisfies the public awareness requirement of the MS4 storm drain program.
- d. PoCD updates/issues/concerns
 - (1) boardwalk around Chester Creek - Sandy will help to arrange a meeting of Lisa and Ted with Parks and Rec, to discuss town and conservation considerations for this possible project.
 - (2) The results of the first town-wide opinion survey are available on the website weknowwhereitis.org. A follow-up survey is being drafted by a POCD subcommittee
- e. Recycling issues:
 - (1) It was noted that there are no containers for recyclables along Main St. It may be impractical to initiate these, considering needs to clean items, the cost of collection, and the declining market for recyclable materials. Waste avoidance is a better option and will be the subject of a future discussion. An example is provided by Masonicare which has instituted a program to use heavier plastic plates which can be washed and reused for some activities.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Cigarette butts in alley to north of the Pattaconk restaurant. This was brought to our attention during the Sunday Market.
- b. CCC's role in Chester's work on Sustainable CT.
 1. The CCC will develop a list of sustainability issues associated with local businesses. The Economic Development Committee will be asked to help with this. Sandy will put this on the agenda for next month's CCC meeting.

- (2) All CCC members are urged to hold conversations with the Merchants Association, business owners and other associations and individuals regarding sustainability issues.
- (3) Members discussed collaborating with the E-Team to host an Energy Fair or Conservation Fair this fall and to provide information on environmental issues such as clean water, use of rain barrels, composting, managing invasive plants, use of native plants for landscaping, etc.

Adjournment: 6:30 PM

OPEN ITEMS (To be discussed for clearance at the next CCC meeting - August 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 Priscilla Robinson of Chester Land Trust to see if CLT 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. 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.

Next meeting August 2, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway