

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30PM, September 7, 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 August 3, 2017 meeting were approved.

**Audience of citizens:** None

**Correspondence:** Dues notice from CACIWC. MOTION made and approved to share the cost of renewed membership with the Inland Wetlands agency.

### Old Business

- a. **Bluebird House Project:** The Meeting House has been reserved for the meeting on October 29th, 2-5:00 PM. Matthew Male will be the speaker. **Sandy or Ted** to inquire whether the Chester Library or the Land Trust will co-sponsor this program. **Lisa** will ask Matthew for a short biography and outline, and will then contact the Valley Courier and Jenny Watrous for publicity.
- b. **E-Team report:**
  - a. Streetlights will be modified to LED's in October.
  - b. Additional solar panels will be installed on CES next summer.
  - c. Meeting on Home Energy Solutions program with residents of Cherry Hill low income housing project.
- c. **Envirotips:** Some suggestions: Salts for ice melting, Cedar Lake watershed protection information.
- d. **Recycling Outreach:** Questions about handling shredded paper. **Rick** to call AllWaste and ?RiverCOG to determine best way.
- e. **Cedar Lake Watershed committee.**
  - a. The first three sets of Postcards have been mailed .(Septic systems, Shoreline vegetated buffers, and fertilizers.)
  - b. Juliana Barrett will be presenting a program on this on September 27th.
  - c. Present approach is to authorize hydroraking for swimming areas at Town beaches and Camp Hazen next Spring. A long-term plan is still being developed.
  - d. Rotary is likely to help finance an educational kiosk at the Main Town Beach. Margot mentioned that this may also be an opportunity for a grant because Cedar Lake is in the Regional Greenway.
  - e. Does the boat launch have information on (1) water chestnut invasive, (2) Need to wash boats, and (3) the speed and horsepower limits on the Lake? **Action: \_\_\_\_\_?**
  - f. There are no records of septic tank inspections to be found at Town Hall. This needs to be addressed.
- f. **Phragmites eradication:** Nothing to report.
- g. **Stormwater Catchbasin marking.** We need to have a timetable for this as well as what if any requirements for marking are part of the Stormwater Program. **Rick** to check with Jacobson Engineering.
- h. **Sustainability/ Chester GoGreen. ....**
- i. **Updates to CCC website.** add a "Projects" section to the CCC website, with links to rain barrels, bird houses, recycling, Cedar Lake Watershed Commission. **Action: \_\_\_\_\_?**

**j. 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 glycol phosphates 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 5:43 PM.

Next meeting October 5, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. P. Holloway