

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30PM, November 2, 2017

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

(* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM

Minutes: of the October 2017 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: none

Old Business

a. Bluebird House Project: October 29

Excellent turnout and excellent presentation. All 24 bluebird house kits taken.

MOTION: Authorized reimbursement to Lisa for providing refreshments.

Consider a future talk about Matthew Male's work on Gull Island, co-sponsoring this with Potapaug Audubon. Other possible topics include: Owls, Ospreys, Bats, Pollinators, invasive species. Noted that Chester Land Trust will have a speaker on bees at their November ninth annual meeting.

b. CACIWC annual meeting

MOTION: Authorized reimbursing Rick for attendance fee to this meeting.

c. E-Team report:

a. Streetlights will be modified to LED's beginning 7 October.

b. E-Team is deciding how to modify decorative lights in parking lots.

c. The first 3 Home Energy Solutions assessments and weatherizations will take place at Cherry Hill low income housing project on Oct 20th. More assessments to follow.

d. New boilers have been installed in Meeting House. Underground storage tank has been emptied and will be abandoned in place in the Spring.

a. Envirotips: One more tip relating to global warming; other topics discussed.

b. Recycling Outreach: **Sandy** will discuss having a battery collection box at the library.

c. Cedar Lake Watershed committee.

No decision on 2018 weed control as no quorum at October meeting.

f. Phragmites eradication: Nothing new to report. **Sandy** expediting contractor response.

g. Stormwater Catchbasin marking. The program requires an element of public outreach. **Rick** to talk to Wade at Jacobson Engrg to determine where we stand on MS4 and about how CCC can help.

Margot to speak with the Town Crew about what they find in catchbasins during cleanouts.

h. Sustainability/ Chester GoGreen. Nothing new to report.

i. Updates to CCC website. **Sandy** will add CCC Projects, Bird house handouts, and links to AllWaste recycling info.

New Business

a. Sandy will pursue having a representative from the Conservation Commission be part of the Plan of Conservation and Development team.

OPEN ITEMS

(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** 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 5:45PM.

Next meeting December 7, 2017 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
R. P. Holloway