

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
4:30 PM, February 7, 2019

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 January 2019 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. Storm Drain Stenciling: Sandy has the paint. We await temperatures above 50F for testing stencils.

b. Boardwalk NQP to Laurel Hill Cemetery: Ted displayed maps of the area provided by Jacobson Engineering and reviewed property lines and the proposed location for a viewing platform. Rotary club is interested in providing significant financial support for the project. Jacobson is in the process of evaluating the best route for the access paths considering wetlands restrictions as well as topography.

c. PoCD updates/issues/concerns:

Sandy reported on a meeting of various town boards and commissions which had been held on February 2nd to discuss the Plan. There was general agreement that the proposed Plan lacked the conservation portion of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The CCC agreed that the 2009 Plan was a good one and only needed slight revisions to cover progress over the past ten years. The Commission reviewed, in detail, each of the proposals which had been included in the 2009 Plan, noting which had been completed, which needed modification, and added a few. **Sandy** will assemble these into a formal communication to P&Z to have these added to the 2019 Plan. The comment period ends on February 25th so CCC members still have time to transmit succinct individual comments.

The 2019 Plan will be presented at a public hearing on March 7th. It is important that ***all members of the CCC*** attend this meeting to ensure that conservation matters are included.

d. CCC's role in SustainableCT: The sustainability committee has still not been organized at this time.

New Business

- a. **MOTION:** to add two public education workshops to the CCC's projects (see the January minutes for a full list) for 2019: one on forestry management, the other on spring amphibians. Speakers for both events have been contacted and are willing to make presentations.

Carryovers of incomplete action items

(1) Re: 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. *This item will be discussed at December meeting. Sandy to notify Inland Wetlands.*

(2) # **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. *Sandy will talk to new president of Chester Land Trust, Priscilla.*

(3) # **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. *Continue this as a carryover item.*

(4) # **Lisa** will investigate whether the State DEEP has detailed mapping of the mean high water lines.

(5) # **Margot** will investigate tax deductions for dead tree removal and will send the info to all. **Peggy** will include in Envirotips.

(6) # Concern about the timing of the mowing of the field adjacent to Aaron Manor. Early mowing affected pollinators. **Margot** will determine who owns these fields. **Lisa** will investigate best practices so the CCC can write a letter to Chester Inland Wetlands Agency .

(7) # Peggy has been Chester's representative to the Gateway Commission for many years. **All members of the CCC** are asked to suggest persons to fill the two open positions from Chester.

Adjournment: 5:45 PM

Next meeting March 7, 2019 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, R. P. Holloway