

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
4:30 PM, March 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 4:35 PM

Minutes: of the February 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. Plans for amphibians workshop

The Commission plans to hold this workshop in late March, early April. **Lisa** will talk to Hank Gruner, the speaker, to see what dates work for him. Various locations were discussed. **Lisa** will contact the Synagogue to see if they would be interested in providing space for the lecture. This is desirable because they are close to the marshes on Ferry Road. It might be necessary to have the talk at the Meeting House and have the walk at Ferry Road.

c. Envirotips

It was suggested that each tip include a reference to the content of the previous one, since many of these are part of a string of related ideas.

d. Boardwalk NQP to Laurel Hill Cemetery:

The local Rotarians chapter (which plans to finance much of this project) met with Jacobson Engineering for design discussions. Jacobson suggested combining this project with the DEEP Trails Project already connected with the plans for improving trails at North Quarter Park.

Another walk of the proposed route will take place next week.

The next step will be to have a meeting with all Town committees and organizations who may be affiliated with this project.

e. CC's role in Chester's sustainability program — nothing new to report.

f. Plan of Conservation and Development

As of the time of this meeting, there is no indication that the contractor has included any of the recommendations made by the Conservation Commission. **Lisa** will attend the town meeting tonight to ensure that these comments and recommendations are included. The town's economic base is heavily dependent upon our natural environs.

g. A review of the CCC's webpage was postponed for discussion at the next meeting.

Adjournment: 5:45 PM

Next meeting April 4, 2019 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, R. P. Holloway

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.