

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
4:30 PM, April 4, 2019

Members: Rick Holloway, Sandy Prisløe, Peggy Wilson, Pat Woomer, Margot Burns*, Ted Taigen, Lisa Wahle (* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM

Minutes: of the March 2019 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. Plans for amphibians workshop

_Planning for this workshop needs to start several months before the event to allow time for advertising, scheduling speakers, gathering specimens, etc. **Members of the CCC** will determine this Spring and Summer the locations of vernal pools which can be easily accessed by workshop attendees. Several possibilities were discussed; various **members of the Commission** will visit these to assess accessibility as well as what species of amphibians may be found there. (It was noted that the Inland Wetlands Agency in town would appreciate a town-wide inventory of vernal pools. **Rick** will start to assemble this.)

b. Plans for a tree management workshop

The CCC will schedule this for some time after the trees have leafed out (or not) to allow citizens and agencies to evaluate the extent of tree mortality in Chester as a result of gypsy moths and drought. Two speakers are being considered: Emory Gluck, who deals mainly with the State Forests, and Tom Worthley who can address other areas. **Lisa** will determine availability of the speakers, and **Sandy** will check on availability of the Meeting House. A Wednesday evening in early June (specifically June 12) was considered to be best.

c. Envirotips

There was a short discussion of when one should include source references in the Envirotips. Peggy will continue to make this determination and will provide references where needed.

d. Storm Drain Stenciling: Sandy has the paint. We await temperatures above 50F for testing stencils. The Cedar Lake Watershed Committee is eager to participate in this program and will help paint catchbasins in the Cedar Lake Terrace area. **Ted** will help coordinate a suitable workday. **Sandy** will arrange to borrow fluorescent orange vests and cones from Public Works.

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

f. Boardwalk NQP to Laurel Hill Cemetery

Progress continues. Ted provided an update on the viewing platform, assistance from Jacobson Engineering, and on some of the difficulties in developing a trail to connect the viewing platform with North Quarter Park.

New Business

- a. Review of the CCC webpage. Postponed until the next meeting.
- b. July 14th Community Tent at the Sunday Market. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- c. Chester Spring Weekend, May 4. Although the main event is Rotary's duck race and the float parade, there will be many other activities. **Lisa and Margot** are working on a display and possible presentation on ducks, particularly those to be found around Chester.

d. Earth Day, April 21: As promoted in the most recent town-wide email blast, the Chester Land Trust will be conducting cleanups at the Carini and Scudder preserves, as well as general road- and stream-side trash pickups. **Members of the CCC** are planning to participate.

e. Repair Cafe Rick will be participating in a "Repair Cafe" at the Old Saybrook Senior Center this Sunday afternoon 1:00 to 4:30. This is a program promoted by the Rockfall Foundation and RiverCOG to encourage repair and re-use of salvageable items. A similar "cafe" took place in Middletown last Spring.

Adjournment: 5:30 PM
Next meeting May 2, 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.