

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
4:30 PM, May 2, 2019

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

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM

Minutes: of the April 2019 meeting were approved, with the clarification under New Business (c), that Jan Taigen was preparing the display. MOTION made (Wahle, Taigen) to approve the change to the minutes.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. Plans for a tree management workshop - June 12

- Meeting House reserved 6:00 - 9:00 PM.
- Presentations by Emory Gluck (State Forester) and Tom Worthley (UConn Extension Service Officer). Andrea Urbano, new service forester for central CT may also attend.
- **Rick** to see if the town tree warden, Scott Mills, could give a very brief discussion of his duties.

Advertising the event:

* **Rick** to contact Rita Christopher to see if Tom Worthley, a Haddam resident, could be the person-of-the-week just preceding the program, and possibly generate a separate article about the event.

* **Lisa and Jan (Taigen)** will prepare a basic fact-sheet about the event. **Ted** will see if Erica can include this in her "e-List" publication.

* **Peggy** will submit to Jenny W pertinent Envirotips during the two weeks preceding the workshop, and will ask Jenny to include an announcement of the event in the weekly town-wide e-blast.

* **Sandy** will send Priscilla (Land Trust) a copy of the fact-sheet (see above) for distribution to Land Trust members. **Margot** will do the same to Deep River Land Trust contact.

* **Sandy** will send this info to chairs of Conservation Commissions in neighboring towns.

* **Rick** will send to Potapaug Audubon.

- Refreshments will be discussed at the next CCC meeting, June 6.

b. Envirotips

- Ted has obtained a collection of all the envirotips in electronic format.
- **Lisa** will send Peggy the recipe for Garlic Mustard Pesto for inclusion in a future tip.

c. Observation Platform

Jacobson Engineering is working on plans for platform. Rotary continues to research funding options.

d. CC's role in Chester's sustainability program

RiverCOG will have interns again this summer. We could use them to obtain credits under the program for what Chester has already accomplished. **Margot** will contact sustainabilityCT to determine availability.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.. CCC Webpage. **All members** should view this before the next meeting in order to determine what needs to be updated.
- b. CCC info booth in community tent at July 14th Farmers' Market
Discussed featuring aquatic invasives, in particular hydrilla. "Clean, Drain, Dry" program. **Sandy** will contact Tom Brelsford about having Cedar Lake Watershed Committee share the table. Should we approach CT Water Company as well?
- c. **MOTION**: to add an agenda item (Lisa, Peggy) to review the plans for the proposed septic system at Aaron Manor. Noted that Inland Wetlands will be holding a public hearing on this Monday 6 May.

Adjournment: 5:45 PM
Next meeting June 6, 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.

(8) # **Rick** will start to assemble town-wide inventory of vernal pools.

(9) # 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