

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, June 4, 2020

Members: (Meeting was held on Zoom): Rick Holloway, Sandy Prisloe, Peggy Wilson, Pat Woome\*, Margot Burns, Ted Taigen, Lisa Wahle  
(\* = not in attendance )

Guests: Grant Russell-Walsh

Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm

**Minutes:** Minutes of the May 7th regular meeting were unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** None, since access to Town Hall is closed.

### Old Business

- a. EnviroTips: Peggy has distributed one for approval by the CCC. **Members** are to send photos of possible composting bins to Sandy.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: **Ted** will send the digital file of previous tips to all members.
- c. Laurel Hill Cemetery overlook: This project is on hold because COVID-19 is temporarily diverting attention and resources to other concerns.
- d. SustainableCT: No meetings have been held.
- e. Invasive Plants: Short discussion of invasion by Japanese knotweed. Margot mentioned a 4-part series to be presented by RiverCOG in June. **Margot** will forward information on this to **Sandy** for distribution to all members.
- f. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC): Ted is CCC's representative to CLWC. At their last meeting, the CLWC discussed efforts to prevent *hydrilla* infestation from reaching Cedar Lake. The greatest threat is from boats and trailers which have been in areas of infestation, such as the Connecticut River. The CLWC is recommending that the Town establish an ordinance banning trailers from the State boat launch. Coordination with the DEEP will be required. The State should be supportive since they may be responsible for corrective measures if *hydrilla* infestation were to occur.  
The CLWC is also considering a ban on gas engines at Cedar Lake.

### New Business

- a. Pollinator Gardens: Praise for the demonstration pollinator garden recently installed at the Water Street parking lot. A recommendation was made that **Grant** post information at the bus stop to publicize the project as well as to prevent accidental weeding or mowing of the gardens.

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**b. Vegetation management on Town Properties:** In establishing conservation commissions, the State intended that these be responsible for recommending proper use and care of open spaces within each town. The CCC discussed ways in which the Town might benefit from further coordination and guidance for vegetation management of public properties within the town. The CCC wishes to obtain a better understanding of which organizations presently share some responsibility for these properties and whether a management plan exists. The following public properties were discussed:

North Quarter Park

The parking area near the CT River ferry landing — recent modifications

***Sandy*** will place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

***All members*** to visit the site.

Laurel Hill Cemetery and the parking area at its entrance.

***Rick*** will speak with Al Cuneo, member of the Chester Cemetery Board

**Adjournment: 5:30 PM**

**Next meeting July 2, 2020 at 4:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway