

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, Sept 3, 2020

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

Guests: Tom Brelsford (Cedar Lake Watershed Commission)

Meeting called to order at 4:37 pm

Minutes: Minutes of the July 2nd regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Copy of "Connecticut Wildlife."

Email letter from Lauren Gister re Laurel Hill and the Chester Cemetery Association.
Invoice for membership (shared with Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency) in CACIWC for \$60 (This expenditure is in the CCC budget, but

MOTION: to pay this bill was unanimously approved).

Old Business

- a. EnviroTips: Peggy was commended on providing these tips on a weekly basis.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: **Ted** will send the digital file of previous tips to all members for review.
- c. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC).
Tom Brelsford provided background information on the proposed amendment to the rules for Cedar Lake. Two very aggressive invasive plants, *hydrilla* and *water chestnut* can easily be spread by fragments attached to boat trailers and water-cooled engines. A draft of a proposed ordinance to ban launching these is intended to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen, but has been awaiting review by the town attorney. Tom has provided the selectmen with extensive background information.

MOTION: The Chester Conservation Commission supports the proposed town ordinance to regulate the use of boat trailers and boat motors at the Cedar Lake boat launch in order to prevent the introduction of invasive plants into the lake. (Motion made by Ted Taigen, seconded by Peggy Wilson, and subsequently unanimously approved.)

All members of the CCC are urged to attend the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

- d. Laurel Hill Cemetery and Arboretum. Direction or management of this program is outside of the stated scope of the CCC. Although it cannot take the lead, the CCC is strongly supportive of pursuing designation of Laurel Hill Cemetery as an arboretum. In order to assist **the first selectwoman** in convening a meeting to accomplish this task, **Lisa** will circulate among members of the CCC, for preliminary review, a list of those groups and individuals likely to have an interest in the project. Additionally, she may include contact information for some of the many resources which may be of use to a committee, e.g. Local and Regional cemetery associations.

Sandy and Lisa will speak to **Grant and Kate** to determine the extent of their progress on this project.

e. Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Rick attended several of the meetings hosted by RiverCOG, which is assembling the Plan. Chester was very well represented. Many attendees expressed interest in developing eco-tourism in this region of the State. There was enthusiasm for developing the rail corridor from Old Saybrook to Middletown as a Rail Trail. Rick suggested combining the purchasing power of many towns in order to obtain the best possible prices for such things as vehicle charging stations, electric school buses, etc. Margot feels that the final plan may not be completed for another year.

Further information is available at RiverCOGRegionalPlan.org

f. SustainableCT: Rick has spoken with the chair of the SustainableEssex committee and plans to attend their next meeting. Grant reportedly worked with the interns this summer to complete the SustainableCT application for Chester. **Rick** will follow up with Grant to determine what else needs to be done.

g. UConn Master Composter Program. **Sandy** will contact Katherine Rowies, who had requested that the CCC pay for her tuition to attend the certification program for Master Composters. There is money in the CCC budget for education. He will request that she provide the CCC with a statement outlining how she will use the knowledge gained to benefit Chester.

h. Marking Storm Drains. **Sandy** will assemble the supplies for this project, and will set a time when **Rick, Ted, and he** can continue the marking, consistent with social distancing guidelines.

New Business

a. Management of Chester's Open Spaces: The CCC plans to update the town's map of Open Spaces. Jenny Kitsen will provide details on properties acquired or protected by the Chester Land Trust since the last update. Margot will look for someone with GIS experience to aid the town. Agreement needs to be reached on what is meant by "open space."

Carryover items:

a. from 7/03/2020: **Margot** will find out where RiverCOG takes shredded paper.

Adjournment: 6:00 PM

Next meeting October 1 , 2020 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway