

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, October 1, 2020

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

Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm

Minutes: Minutes of the Sept 3rd regular meeting were revised. In Old Business paragraph d.3 last sentence should read "Sandy and Lisa will speak to Grant to determine..." The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

- a. Envirotips: The next few tips will deal with invasive plants and insects.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: **Ted** will send the digital file of previous tips to all members for review.
- c. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC).

A new information kiosk, displaying rules as well as providing information on how to keep the lake clean and healthy, has been erected at the side beach on Cedar Lake Road.

Hydroraking this past spring was mostly effective, but is expensive and requires periodic use of outside contractors. The CLWC is planning to purchase some benthic barriers for annual control of weeds beneath the lap lanes in Pelletier Park. These will be put in place for the summer by volunteers each year.

Tonight's meeting of the Board of Selectmen will include a discussion of proposed changes to the lake rules to prevent introduction of *hydrilla* and water chestnut by boats and trailers at the north boat launch. These invasives are already a problem in Chester Creek and Waterhouse Brook
- d. Laurel Hill Cemetery arboretum.

Instead of an observation platform, Rotary is proposing to install benches at appropriate locations.

Sandy and Lisa will speak with Grant Russell-Walsh about the status of the arboretum application and to determine in what ways the Conservation Commission can be of help. In order to assist in preparation of a plan to apply for arboretum status, a town resident has offered to provide large aerial photographs of the property.
- e. Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.

Having completed discussions with member towns, RiverCOG hopes to have the final plan available by summer of 2021.
- f. SustainableCT

Rick will meet with the first selectwoman in October to assemble a committee. An immediate priority will be to document what has already been done by various committees and townspeople on projects which will enable the town to qualify for certification.

g. UConn Master Composter Program

The CCC is awaiting a formal request from Catherine Rowies to sponsor her participation in the Master Composter program. **Sandy** will see if she is still interested. It has been suggested that she fulfill the community service part of the program by completing one of the pertinent action items in the SustainableCT program.

h. Catch Basin Painting

Sandy , Ted and Rick will paint more catch basins in the next few weeks.

i. Update Chester's Open Space Map

Discussion of what to include in the present update of the town's open space plan.

MOTION: Accept the definition of "open Space" in the town's open space plan as that used by RiverCOG in their regional plans.

Sandy will speak with Jenny Kitsen of the Chester Land Trust to ensure that any recently acquired Trust properties have been included in the open spaces plan, and that property details have been included in the open space data base.

New Business

a. Invasive species

Lisa will be attending the Invasive Species Symposium next week and plans to develop an education program for Chester.

Carryover items:

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

Adjournment: 5:45 PM

Next meeting November 5 , 2020 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway