

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, February 4, 2021

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

Guests: Kip DiVito

Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm

Minutes: The minutes of the January regular meeting were approved unanimously.

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None

### Old Business

a. EnviroTips: Suggestions regarding recycling: Possibly identify those merchants who are making strong efforts to avoid waste, discuss re-using plastic bags used for produce at grocery stores, suggest alternatives to plastic bags. General discussion of additional ways to use PR notices to encourage recycling. Suggestions for further EnviroTips are always welcome.

b. EnviroTips Publication: **Ted** will send the digital file of previous tips to all members for review. How else can members access these files.

c. Invasive plant educational outreach. Discussion of recent article in Events magazine about Tree of Heaven and plans to address other invasives in a similar, standardized, fact sheet format. **Sandy** will send information to all members regarding CACIWC (organization supporting Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions).

d. Open Space map. **Sandy** will add titles and other information to the map which was previously circulated, and forward it to Jenny Kitsen of the Chester Land Trust for review so that it can be included in the Sustainable Chester application. The Open Space files in the Town Hall also need to be reviewed.

e. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC). No report available.

f. SustainableCT. Quick review of SustainableCT categories and progress on obtaining credit for accomplishments. Thanks to Kate for having completed many actions in Category 2, Thriving Local Economies. Discussion of promoting an EV charging station. **Sandy** will check if Tesla can be encouraged to install a fast-charging station here. Reduction of waste and of plastic recyclables becomes particularly urgent given the likely closing of the Hartford trash-to-energy plant. The Essex Sustainability team would like to cooperate with Chester on public education programs. Both Essex and Chester have had good attendance at their pre-COVID lecture series.

g. By-Laws. These will be helpful in defining the CCC's role and encouraging citizens who are not members to participate on sub-committees. **Sandy** has obtained some models, and will distribute a rough draft of possible CCC By-Laws to members for comment and suggestions.

### **New Business**

a. Election of officers. Sandy feels it would be desirable to have someone else act as chair of this commission in order to ensure variety and innovation. **Sandy** will speak with Ted as a possible next chairman.

b. Commission goals for 2021. **Sandy** will circulate these for comment.

c. Plans for Earth Day April 22, 2021. Considering social distancing guidelines, it may still be possible to distribute seedlings, if available. The loss of so many oaks over the past few years presents an opportunity. National Arbor Day is on April 30th. **Margot** will speak to Emory Gluck, State Forester. **Lisa** will investigate other possible sources. **Rick** will see if the SustainableCT Matching Grants Program might apply.

d. A warm welcome to the newest member of the Conservation Commission, Kate Hair.  
And an appreciation for Kip DiVito's continuing interest in participating in CCC activities.

### **Carryover items:**

a. It was suggested that that the CLWC write an article about *hydrilla* for Chester Events, and produce a postcard mailing similar to the effective ones on other subjects which the CLWC distributed in the past.

**Ted** will notify the chair of the CLWC of this suggestion.

b. **Rick** will seek environmental activists in Deep River to support tri-town sustainable programs.

**Adjournment:** 5:35 PM

**Next meeting** March 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway