

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, March 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 February regular meeting were approved unanimously.

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: Plant Sale flyer

Old Business

- a. EnviroTips: **Sandy and Rick** will send more ideas. Suggestions from anyone 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. SustainableCT. Quick review of progress. Continuing to participate in Sustainable Essex meetings from which we get support and ideas. Since all towns in the Tri-Town area share many concerns, **Rick** will continue efforts to locate someone in Deep River who might be interested in working with us.
Rick and Kate had attended the webinar put on by the Sierra Club of CT which featured a discussion of food waste (which is said to comprise 25-30% of regular trash), and a presentation by Blue Earth which collects food waste for composting. Diverting this stream has both environmental and economic benefits.
- d. Invasive plant educational outreach. Discussion of a proposed article on Japanese Knotweed control in Events magazine. **Kate** will send Lisa the fact sheet on *hydrilla* for inclusion in Chester Events. **Lisa** will ask the Chester Land Trust to incorporate in their website the recent article on Tree of Heaven.
- e. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC). **Ted** will speak with Tom Brelsford of the CLWC to generate an article on *hydrilla* for the Spring issue of Events. He will discuss the possibility of addressing the transport of *hydrilla* on fishermen's waders. Some towns in CT have restrictions on what can be worn as waders. (**Ted** see carryover item below)
- f. Open Space map. Margot has sent the most recent update of this map to all members of the CCC. It was noted that Camp Hazen has a considerable amount of forest bordering the east side of Cedar Lake. Discussion as to whether the camp would be interested in protecting this tract in some way, such as by entering into an agreement to give the Town of Chester or the State the first option for purchase if it should ever come up for sale.

g. By-Laws. **Sandy** has located some model by-laws from other towns (Litchfield, Andover) and will send out a proposed set for the CCC.

h. Plans for Earth Day/Arbor Day — April 24, 2021

MOTION: Authorize expenditure of \$69 (plus shipping costs, if any) to purchase 100 tree seedlings: 50 Red Oak and 50 White Pine. Approved unanimously.

Sandy will contact the Arbor Day Foundation to order seedlings, to verify delivery date, and to determine if they have recommendations for the care and feeding of these.

Kate will assemble a brochure which she will circulate for comment. She will also determine which merchants would be willing to make these available. The library will also act as a distribution point.

New Business

a. Commission goals for 2021. Sandy circulated these for comment.. The CCC agreed with the recommended goals and decided to add reduction and composting of food waste as an additional goal.

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 one 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.

c. **Sandy** will check if Tesla can be encouraged to install a fast-charging station here.

d. **Sandy** will speak with Ted as a possible next chairman.

For future consideration:

a. The Open Space files in the Town Hall need to be reviewed.

b. See if Camp Hazen would be willing to give the Town the right of first refusal if the camp ever puts the land on the east side of Cedar Lake up for sale.

Adjournment: 6:00 PM

Next meeting April 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway