

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, April 1, 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 4:40 pm

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None

### Old Business

- a. EnviroTips: Peggy has material for the next few weeks.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: Ted sent the digital files of previous tips 2015 to 2019 to all members for review. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c. SustainableCT. Review of progress. Chester has accumulated over 200 points — enough to satisfy one of the two requirements for certification. To complete the application, required items in three categories remain: #1 (inclusiveness), 9 (Materials Management) , and 11 (housing). Rick is to meet with Lauren within the next few days to discuss these. At that time, **Rick** will also discuss with her a) plans for handling invasives, b) native plantings review, and c) plans for Laurel Hill cemetery.

All materials for the April review by SustainableCT are due next Monday. Chester will submit what it has assembled so far. The next review date will be in August.

**Ted** will send Rick a copy of the CLWC's invasive water plant mitigation strategy.

**Rick** will ensure that Kate receives the announcement of the next Sustainable Essex meeting.

**Margot** will send Rick information on RiverCOG's regional natural hazard mitigation plan as well as on the educational sessions which were held in the summer 2020.

**Kate** will coordinate setting up a meeting on composting and food waste: Blue Earth, SustainableSX, a Deep River contact and Sustainable Chester

- d. Invasive plant educational outreach. A mention that a native plant, witch hazel, was cleared from a section of the entrance road to Laurel Hill Cemetery. The CCC will work on a program to educate the town crew on managing natives and invasive plants. Since Essex shares similar concerns, a cooperative program will be explored.

**MOTION:** Establish a "Native and Invasive Plant Subcommittee" of the Chester Conservation Commission. Motion was passed unanimously.

- e. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC). Lauren attended the last meeting of the CLWC. The *hydrilla* problem was discussed. Because of the lack of knowledge of this problem, she favors holding a town-wide public information meeting in May. It was suggested that Greg

Bugbee of the UConn Extension center be included as a speaker as he has extensive knowledge of the problem.

The CLWC, Camp Hazen YMCA, and the Cedar Lake Terrace Association have purchased a number of benthic barrier mats which will be deployed this spring in swimming areas.

**Rick** to write Brelsford about obtaining details of a formal watershed management plan.

f. Open Space map. **Margot** will send out a copy of the map in order to include a layer which was omitted from the previous version. **Rick** will send her a copy of the SustCT requirements for certifying this category.

g. By-Laws. Lisa and Sandy have obtained some model by-laws from other towns (Litchfield, Andover). **Sandy** will compile these and send out a proposed set for CCC comment.

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

Plan to have a single station at corner opposite Grano. Runs from 10:00 to 2:00. Staffed in two shifts: **AM - Ted, Margot, Sandy, Kip. PM - Rick, Kate, Lisa.**

— **Sandy** will verify timely delivery from Arbor Day Fdn.

— **Ted** to Bring one or two tables.

— **Margot** to determine if instructions come with seedlings and how many.

— Decided not to charge for trees, but may have free-will donation to Chester Land Trust.

— Publicity: **Kate** will work with Mandy to add announcement to visitchester.org. **Peggy** will see that it gets into the town-wide email (as an envirotip). **Lisa** will send instructions for white pines to Peggy.

## **New Business**

a. CCC Website Discussion about improving the appearance of the website. **Sandy** will set up and circulate a page in WordDoc where members of the CCC can propose modifications.

## **Carryover items:**

a. **Ted** to urge 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.

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

c. **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 May 6, 2021 at 4:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway