

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, May 6, 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 4:34 pm

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: Notice from Army Corps of Engineers re dredging at Chester Point Marina.

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. Brief discussion as to how to organize these. **Rick** to determine if anyone at VRHS Environmental club would be interested.
- c. SustainableCT. Review of progress. Three categories remain to be addressed by the August review deadline: Equity, Materials management, and housing. Lauren is tackling the Equity and housing issues and has given Rick information about the Town of Chester's waste management, which may enable completion of the materials management category. Kate has been appointed as a Chester representative to a joint committee with Deep River to address waste issues. **Sandy** will add Waste Management as a regular agenda item for the CCC. Two items carried over from the April meeting:

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

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

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.

d. Invasive plant educational outreach. Kate has completed an article on Knotweed for publication in the next Chester Events. Following issues will deal with garlic mustard and mugwort.

e. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC). Benthic barriers have been installed at Peletier park and at the Cedar Lake Terrace beach. Rick to send information on the informational postcards which were sent out by the CLWC last year. The DEEP has produced some new posters for boat launch areas. **Margot** will see if she can obtain copies for immediate posting.

f. Open Space map. **Margot** will again send out a copy of the map in order to include a layer which was omitted from the previous version.

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

The seedling distribution was successful. All but two red oaks from the 100 seedlings were distributed on April 24th; The Chester Land Trust will plant those two. They were grateful for the support shown them by visitors to the table. A brief discussion as to whether a similar seedling distribution could be an annual event — no conclusions reached.

New Business

a. CCC Website Sandy has set up and circulated a proposed format for a new CCC website. **Sandy** will discuss the site with Lauren to determine if there could be any problems with having this site independent of the town. Members of the CCC as well as Chester residents are encouraged to contribute additional materials. **Rick** to send a link to the Sustainable Essex website to all members of the CCC as an example of a similar non-government website.

Carryover items:

a. **Rick** will discuss with Lauren a) plans for handling invasives, b) native plantings review, and c) plans for Laurel Hill cemetery.

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: 5:30 PM

Next meeting June 3, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway