

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, June 3, 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: none

Meeting called to order at 4:40 pm

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None received. **Lisa** will remind Anna Sweeney, wetlands compliance officer, of need to keep the CCC informed of projects which might involve CCC recommendations. e.g. status of possible trail to link Laurel Hill Cemetery to North Quarter Park.

Old Business

- a. EnviroTips: Discussion about monitoring turkey populations.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: **Rick** to inquire if Jenny W keeps a separate file just for EnviroTips. [Note: answer — no, they are not in a separate file.]. Discussion as to whether it would be worth the effort to compile and organize these.
- c. SustainableCT. The town just received the results of the review of the submittal in April. Almost all items were approved. **Kate and Rick** will take necessary action on those which require additional effort. Masonicare is considering participating in the food waste composting program with Blue Earth. If this happens, this will be a great opportunity to publicize the program.
- d. Invasive plant educational outreach. Discussion of how to keep the Town Crew up to date on these issues without interfering with their work schedules.
Kate and Lisa have generated articles for Chester Events on knotweed, garlic mustard, and mugwort. They **will send** drafts of these to CCC members for comment. Felise C has written one for black swallow wort which needs addition of photos. Suggestion to address Japanese stilt grass in a future article. Suggestion to provide a positive article about milkweed.
Discussion as to the possibility of a link in the town's weekly email or on the town's CCC page to inform the public that the CCC has developed a set of fact sheets on these invasives. This would allow for greater detail than is available in the 300-word limit for Chester Events.
Margot discussed the efforts being made by RiverCOG to obtain funding for the CT River Watershed Council to address the *hydrilla* problem.
- e. Cedar Lake Watershed Commission (CLWC). Lauren G would like to hold another public information session on the *hydrilla* problem. **Sandy** will speak with Tom Brelsford to determine how the CLWC will participate in this and to determine what additional steps are needed to get this going rapidly, as the summer boating season is already here.

f. Open Space map. **Margot** will again send out a digital copy of the most recent map in order to include a layer which was omitted from the previous version. **Rick** will examine where this could be made available and will include it in the Sustainable Chester package.

g. By-Laws. These are still under development.

h. Website. Discussion about the possibility of a CCC website separate from the Town's official website. **Sandy** will discuss this with Lauren G.

New Business

a. **Margot** will draft a letter of appreciation for Lauren G to send to Emory Gluck for his many years of service as state forester.

Carryover items:

a. **Rick** will discuss with Lauren plans for Laurel Hill cemetery.

b. (from the May 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.

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.

Margot will see if she can obtain copies of the DEEP's *hydrilla* posters for immediate posting at Cedar Lake beaches and boat launch.

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: 5:55 PM

Next meeting July 1, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway