

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, July 1, 2021

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

Guests: none

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None received.

Old Business

- a. EnviroTips: Peggy will continue to produce these, with assistance from other members of the Commission when requested.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: We concluded that readers of EnviroTips in the weekly email blasts would be more likely to act on periodic single tips than if they were confronted with a book of them.
- c. SustainableCT. **Rick** is to meet with the interns on Friday, 2 July, to explore ways in which they can move this project ahead.
- d. Invasive plant educational outreach. Everyone is impressed by the fact sheets produced by Lisa and Kate. Similar sheets on mugwort and mile-a-minute vine are in process. **Sandy** will arrange to have these posted on the CCC website. **Lisa** will visit Chris Hayward to identify a possible mile-a-minute vine.
Sandy will check to see if the CCC can host a table sometime at the Farmers' Market.
- e. Cedar Lake invasive aquatic plants issues. The public information session on *hydrilla* was well-presented and well-attended. Around 30 persons were present at the meeting at Town Hall, and another dozen attended via Zoom. Transportation of *hydrilla* fragments on boat trailers appears to be the primary way in which water bodies become infected. Unfortunately, the DEEP has not been able to respond adequately; they are overwhelmed and undermanned. The Town is still waiting for them to provide posters for the boat launch site.
Sandy will contact Tom Brelsford (CLWC) and state rep Christine Palm to see what can be done.
- f. Open Space Map. The SustainableCT interns will contact Margot at RiverCOG to obtain the latest copy.
- g. By-Laws. **Sandy** will send a copy of the proposed By-Laws to all members of the CCC.

h. Website. Sandy reported that the CCC can have a website independent of the town. Jenny will be meeting with a web designer for the town site next week.

Old Business (Cont.)

i. Wast Management. **Kate** is scheduled to meet with the first selectman for Deep River and two members of Deep River's sustainableCT committee to discuss issues at the shared transfer station.

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.

6/03/21 **Rick** will examine where the Open Space map could be made available and will include it in the Sustainable Chester package.

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

6/03/21 **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.

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.

c. 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.

Adjournment: 6:08 PM

Next meeting August 5, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway