

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, August 5, 2021

Members: (Meeting was held on Zoom): Rick Holloway, Sandy Prisloe, Peggy Wilson, Margot Burns, Ted Taigen, Lisa Wahle, Kate Hair

Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm

Guests: none

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None received.

Old Business

a. Envirotips: **Rick** will produce one on mattress recycling. **Lisa** will send info on bird deaths to Peggy.

b. EnviroTips Publication: Sandy spoke with Peter Good about possibility of reviving the famous calendar. The Goods are too busy to undertake this.

c. SustainableCT. We are racing to complete application by Aug 23rd deadline.

— Open space plan: Was in 1999 Chester Open space plan. **Rick** to see if this can be easily updated. **Margot** to send to Rick the Regional info which has Chester info. **Rick** to see what is available from Chester Land Trust. (Bill Myers).

— Watershed management planning: **Ted** will look at IEPPlan (1986) to see if it could be updated. Land Trust had produced a management plan for Chester Creek watershed. as part of Fish and Wildlife plan. (**Rick** — Myers)

— **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. The Plan has a Chester appendix.

d. Invasive plant educational outreach.

— Mugwort is present in Carini Preserve.

— Possible to host a table at Farmers' Market in September? Will discuss next month.

— Pollinator gardens. One in Water Street parking lot needs attention. **Margot, Kate, and Lisa** to evaluate. Are other sites available?

e. Cedar Lake invasive aquatic plants issues. Benthic barriers have been removed and stored. Effectiveness to be evaluated in August.

f. Open Space Map. Discussion of discrepancies between assessor's info and State data. Problem of who pays for someone to correct.

g. By-Laws. In July, Sandy sent proposed by-laws to **all CCC members** for review. He will incorporate any comments and issue officially.

h. Website. It is active. **Sandy** will resend the link. He has included a gmail address for the site so that anyone can submit material for review then posting on the site.

Margot drafted a thank you letter to Emory Gluck, just retired as State Forester responsible for our region). She will forward this to Selectman's office to put on official letterhead. We do not know who will replace Emory.

- i. Waste Management. Meetings of Chester and Deep River have been productive. As of next week, Blue Earth will be picking up food scraps from Masonicare.
- Discussion of need to plan now for a site for disposal of storm debris.
 - **All CCC** members urged to review info on chesterct.org about waste disposal, as this needs to be improved.

New Business

- a. Storm Drain Stenciling. **Sandy** will suggest times for us to continue this.
- b. Update Town's web page about Transfer Station. Kate is pursuing this (see "Waste Management" above.)

Carryover items:

- a. **Rick** will discuss with Lauren plans for Laurel Hill cemetery. [DONE— this will be part of ongoing SuChest.]
- b. (from the May meeting): **Rick** to write Tom Brelsford about obtaining details of a formal watershed management plan. [DONE — awaiting reply]

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

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. [DONE 8/05]

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.

7/01/2021 The Town is still waiting for DEEP 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

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 September 2, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway