

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, October 7, 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 September regular meeting were approved unanimously.

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None received.

### Old Business

a. Envirotips: **Peggy** will highlight the CCC website in a future tip. **Rick** will send her the link to access the Essex SEED website which has ways to view past programs. Other suggestions for Envirotips are always welcome.

b. SustainableCT. As a result of a notice from SustainableCT we modified a few minor items to ensure that the reviewers have everything they need. We await final approval for the bronze level in November. The next step, Silver, will take longer as there are several categories which require the development of broader planning. The SuChest team will be working to enroll additional members.

The Chester team has developed ties with the Essex group; Rick participated in their Source-to-Sea cleanup last weekend. The CCC will help to make Chester a participant in this annual event in 2022.

c. Pollinator gardens. Lisa, Kate, and Felise Cressman cleaned up the pollinator garden in the Water Street parking lot. We discussed adding an instructional sign to the garden.

d. Invasive plant educational outreach. The CCC decided to run an instructive walk on the Carini and Scudder Land Trust properties on October 17th at 2:00 PM to help people identify a few common invasives and to discuss methods for control. **Lisa** will talk to Bill Myers of the Trust, and will send information to **Peggy** so that the announcement will appear in the town-wide email. **Sandy** will send to Peggy and to all CCC members information on how to access the CCC website, which has detailed fact sheets on several of the common invasives.

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

Rick will be serving as the CCC rep to the Cedar Lake Watershed Committee.

f. Open Space Map. **Sandy** will send to CCC members information on how to access the open space map.

g. By-Laws. **MOTION:** To approve the by-laws provided by Sandy. Passed unanimously.

h. Website. It is active. CCC members are encouraged to add information.

(Old Business, continued)

i. Waste Management. Kate and Lauren have met with Angus McDonald and Lenore Grunko of Deep River to develop a food scrap recovery program, and Kate has hosted tables at Chester and Deep River to promote the composting program.

### **New Business**

a. Rick mentioned that the Rockfall Foundation is hosting a Repair Cafe at the deKoven House in Middletown on October 16th from noon to 3:00 pm. Anyone who enjoys fixing things is welcome to volunteer at this event.

**Carryover items:** None open

### **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:** 5:45 PM

**Next meeting November 4, 2021 at 4:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway