

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, Feb 3, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 4:31 pm

Guests: none

Minutes: The minutes of the January 2022 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None received.

Old Business

a. Envirotips: Discussion of numerous ideas for future posts (Turtles, mitten crabs, plastic recycling)

b. SustainableCT. On to *Silver*.

Small teams are working on: Two EV Charging stations, Composting and food scrap collection, a Cedar Lake watershed plan, an update to the Energy Plan, participation in "Repair Cafes," compostable food containers, make Chester Fair a "zero waste" event.

c. Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS). Felise Cressman will write an article on the invasive "burning bush" for the Spring issue of Chester Events.

d. Cedar Lake invasive aquatic plants issues.

The invasive *hydrilla* remains a concern. An ordinance forbidding submersible trailers and water-cooled internal combustion engines on Cedar Lake was presented at a town meeting, and was tabled pending further study.

e. Open Space Inventory Sandy is working on a program which will tie detailed digital information about each open space parcel in Chester.

Discussion of proliferation of trails in natural areas, particularly for use by activities which increase erosion, damage critical plant habitats, and fragment open space tracts. Old Lyme is having problems in the Salmon River natural area.

f. Waste Management. Charlene J and Rob Bibbiani will be meeting with the elementary school principal on February 4 to discuss collection and composting of food scraps at the school.

g. Pollinator Garden educational signage. Ted announced that Chester Rotary is eager to provide funding towards educational signage for the pollinator garden in the Water Street parking lot. **Ted** will talk to Felise C to obtain the layout of the sign which has already been designed.

In addition, there was discussion about providing suitable plants at a table at the Farmers' Market, similar to the tree seedling distribution last summer. April 9 is a Day of Service for Rotary; April 22 is Earth Day.

New Business:

a. Election of Officers. Sandy will be stepping down as chair of the CCC this year. Ted may be able to take over once his term with Chester Rotary is over. Rick will continue as vice-chair and recording secretary.

b. Complaints have been received by the town regarding beaver activity in the Cedar Swamp area. Raising the water level can kill off trees, such as the cedars for which this site has been named. When conditions permit, we can investigate this further.

Carryover items: None open

For future consideration:

a. 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 March 3, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway