

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM April 7, 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 4:34 pm

Guests: none

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: Dock modification permit at Chester Marina (Addressed to S Prisloe). See discussion under New Business, below.

Old Business

a. Envirotips: Discussion of ideas for future posts. Next tip on bears. **Sandy** to talk to Christine Palm about details of transfer of 5 cent surcharge on “nips” to towns.

b. SustainableCT. On to *Silver*.

- Two EV Charging stations. Nothing new since last month.
- Composting and food scrap collection. No progress on instituting collection at the Chester/Deep River Transfer Station.
- Source-to-Sea cleanup program with CT River Conservancy. Hope to participate mid-August.
- Bike/Ped Safety. Community survey to identify problem areas will be sent out next week.
- Coordination with Essex Sustainable team. They are planning an Earth Day event at Bushy Hill Nature Center on April 30th. Volunteers for “repair cafe” still needed. **Rick** to resend announcement to all CCC members.
- “Zero Waste” Chester Fair. Kim Price is raking on raising funds for a matching grant from SustainableCT.

c. Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS). This subcommittee is working on an article on mugwort for summer issue. CT Botanical Society will host a presentation on Saturday on invasive “jumping worm.” Lisa to forward announcement to all.

d. Cedar Lake invasive aquatic plants issues. Bids have been sent out for contractors to install and remove benthic barriers at swimming areas. Deadline is end of April.

e. Open Space Inventory. Sandy is working on a program which will tie detailed digital information about each open space parcel in Chester. He has found a report on open spaces in Chester prepared 10 years ago done by Steve M.... For RiverCOG. Discussion of new open spaces donated to the Chester Land Trust.

f. Waste Management.

No report from Kate.

Rick had discussions at both Adams and Stop and Shop to encourage them to promote and sell mesh produce bags. **CCC members**, inquire about these if you shop at either store.

Discussion of lack of incentives to recycle shrink wrap used in all local boatyards. **Rick** to pass on his findings to Christine Palm.

g. Pollinator Garden educational signage – Native and Invasive Plant Subcommittee. Design of sign is in progress – **Kate** is working on this. Need to locate local companies that can provide installation materials. **Rick** to check with Essex Land Trust for leads. **Lisa** to see if CT Dept of Corrections has applicable services

h. Earth Day Event. The CCC will participate in roadside cleanup effort with Land Trust on April 23rd. Sandy offered to transport recyclables to the transfer station. Can scouts take care of recyclables?

MOTION: Allocate up to \$50 from CCC budget to purchase snacks for volunteers. Approved unanimously.

New Business:

a. Presentation by Ted of plans for Chester Rotary’s “Squirrel Days.” The CCC will not have a booth for seedling distribution at this event, but will consider a booth later in summer at the Farmers Market.

b. The Land Trust inquired if the CCC would like to collaborate on a program about dams in Chester. The Commission felt that the Historical Society would be a better collaborator, but might consider a companion presentation about the effects of dams on fish passage.

Carryover items:

a. Simplified description, easily accessible by the public, of what was credited in the Bronze award and what areas need to be addressed. **Rick** will do this.

b. Margot to review and update the Open Space inventory filed at Town Hall.

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: 5:58 PM

Next meeting Thursday, My 5, 2022, at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway