

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM May 5, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 4:43 pm

Guests: None

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. Envirotips: **Sandy** will send two enviro tips to Peggy dealing with the town's interactive GIS map.

b. SustainableCT. On to *Silver*.

— Two EV Charging stations — The electrician, subcontractor to Juice Bar, concluded that feeding power to the proposed Water Street location would be difficult. Existing power to the building is inadequate for EV charging. He has, however, failed to provide a quote for new service. **Rick** will send Sandy information on electricians who installed the lighting at the Maple street lot.

— Composting and food scrap collection. It is unlikely that a collection point can be established at the Chester/Deep River Transfer Station. Lenore Grunko (Deep River) has spoken with Region 4 management and Rob Bibbiani (Chester) have approached Mr Stoddard, principal of CES.

— Source-to-Sea cleanup program with CT River Conservancy. Hope to participate mid-August. **Rick** needs to contact the CT River Conservancy.

— Bike/Ped Safety. Community survey to identify problem areas will be sent out next week.

— Coordination with Essex Sustainable team. Their Earth Day event at Bushy Hill was very successful.

— "Zero Waste" Chester Fair. Kim Price is raising matching funds from individuals in order to take advantage of the matching grant program from SustainableCT.

c. Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS).

- The next article for Chester Events will be on Callery (Bradford) Pear, which is still used widely in landscaping.
- Margot noted that Japanese knotweed seems to be especially robust this year, and it would be good to target for a concerted control effort. This needs to be planned. Common mugwort and garlic mustard are also very common roadside invasives. **Margot** will see if she can find an example municipal plan for roadside treatment of invasives. Felise Cressman has a map of knotweed populations throughout town. It was suggested that we seek grant funding for a townwide plan for roadside invasive control.

d. Cedar Lake invasive plant issues. No new report

Contractor to install the benthic barriers in swimming areas in May will be selected next week.

- It was noted that legislative funding had been approved for aquatic invasive plant study and control.

e. Open Space – no new report

f. Waste Management – Lisa will connect with Kate and others on the status of municipal compost project and how to move this cause forward.

g. Pollinator Garden and sign.

- Felise Cressman registered the Water Street Pollinator Garden with Pollinator Pathways.
- A small round Pollinator Pathway sign was installed at the garden.
- It was suggested that a future Envirotip talk about this and what it means to be part of the Pollinator Pathway.
- Lisa contacted the CT Department of Corrections about making an interpretive sign. An 18" x 24" aluminum sign would cost ~ \$52. The mounting stand from a company in MN would cost ~ \$211 for frame to sit on a 4"x4" post (town to supply post), or \$465 with mounting post included.
- **Kate** is working on outlay of sign, **Lisa** on text.

h. Earth Day clean up event with Chester Land Trust (CLT) went well. Leftover snack bars provided by the Commission were donated to the food bank, cost for snacks = \$44. Sandy suggested we form a committee with CLT well in advance of next year's cleanup to plan, among other things, how to incorporate recycling into the event. This could be accomplished by sending 2 bags with each volunteer or volunteer pair, one for trash and one for recyclables.

i. Chester Squirrel Days: no report.

New Business:

In April, Lisa met with members of the Chester Land Trust and Historical Society who would like the Town (represented by the Conservation Commission and possibly Inland Wetlands Commission) to host an informational panel discussion that addresses the topics of dam safety, responsibility, history, environment & natural resource concerns, and economic impacts. This would likely be done in September. Lisa talked with the Chairman of Chester Inland Waters and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) about having IWWA co-host. He will discuss with the IWWA. Conservation Commission members present were in favor, but the Commission should vote to formalize our commitment at the next meeting when a quorum is present.

All CCC members work towards finding a new member for this commission, as Peggy would like to step down.

Carryover items:

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

Adjournment: 5:58 PM

Next meeting Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway