

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM June 2, 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 4:33 pm

Guests: None

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: CT Wildlife Magazine (past copies always available on DEEP website)

### Old Business

a. Envirotips: Since June is Pollinator month, **Peggy** will use that as a topic for the next tip. **Sandy** will forward to all a link to Nature Work website.

**Rick** will provide input for a number of Envirotips on the subject of recycling: what's good and what's not.

Discussion of the appearance of the Lone Star Tick in our area.

b. Open Space Mapping: Open space layer is missing from Chester's Assessor's map.

**Sandy** will speak to the assessor.

We need to develop likely categories for open space (e.g. protected, town-owned, etc.). Discussion to be continued. Chester Land Trust may be able to help. Noted that open space dedicated by subdivision applications have often not been added to the land deeds. **Margot** will re-search what categories RiverCOG uses.

c. SustainableCT. On to *Silver*.

— the Bike/Ped team will be meeting with a representative of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program New England area. The emphasis will be on bicycle and pedestrian safety from the Ferry and around Chester Creek.

— Two EV Charging stations — **Sandy** will be meeting next week with an electrician to get cost information for stations at Maple and Water Street lots.

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

— **Rick** will be meeting next week with the summer intern assigned to RiverCOG by SustainableCT.

d. Cedar Lake invasive plant issues. Benthic barriers have been installed in swimming areas. They will be repositioned near the end of June.

e.. Waste Management. No new developments with local Tri-Town governments. Discussion about a possible town-wide survey to determine the willingness of residents to support a composting program and where food scraps might be collected for composting. **Members** are requested to send possible questions for the survey to Kate. Haddam and Essex already have programs. **Margot** will discuss this with Janice E at RiverCOG.

f. Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS). Discussion of areas where Japanese Knotweed has become a major problem and of what might be done to control it. **Margot** will see if

RiverCOG knows of contractors who remove Knotweed. First Selectwoman would appreciate suggestions from the CCC.

g. Pollinator Garden and sign. **Ted** offered to put together an itemized budget for the sign with the quotes from Vacker signs and the Department of Corrections (for the sign itself) to present to Rotary. If funded through Rotary, they would have their logo on the sign.

**Ted** will also contact Bill Meyers to see where the CLT is with the sign being developed for the Carini Preserve... and what that looks like so that the appearance of the signs will be compatible.

**Kate** will work on the layout.

h. Chester Dams discussion in the Fall. Lisa met with the planning group for this. They are contacting potential panelists. The panel discussion will be a Sunday afternoon in September or October at the Meeting House.

**Adjournment:** 5:58 PM

**Next meeting Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 4:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway