

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM July 7, 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 June 2022 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: Dock Application notice (see below)

### Old Business

a. EnviroTips: Since Peggy is resigning from the CCC, we will need someone to coordinate sending EnviroTips to Jenny each week for publication in the town newsletter. **Rick** has prepared a number of EnviroTips on the subject of recycling (what's good and what's not), and will submit these on Mondays in July. Suggestion made that we establish a place, accessible to all members of the CCC, to store prospective EnviroTips. Google Docs? **Rick** to investigate how.

b. Open Space Mapping.: From the June meeting: "Open space layer is missing from Chester's Assessor's map. ...

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. It was noted that open space dedicated by subdivision applications has often not been added to the land deeds. **Margot** will report on what categories RiverCOG uses."

Sandy had discussed this issue with Emily, who is now working in the Assessor's office. Chester is in the process of moving data from the assessor's maps to the format required by the new contractor, GAI, and does not have the time to resolve this issue at present.

c. SustainableCT. On to *Silver*.

— the Bike/Ped team is about to submit the application for a State SafeStreets Audit.

In early June, members of that team and a rep from the Econ Development Commission (ECD) met with a representative of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program New England area. We have yet to hear back from her as to the next steps.

— EV Charging stations — Three locations are being considered: Water Street lot, Maple Street lot, and the Laurel Hill lot. This is a long and complicated process, requiring many approvals. It may be many months before Chester can gain access to funding through ARPA.

Sandy attended a webinar on EV charging stations which was hosted by RiverCOG

— "Zero Waste" Chester Fair. Several members expressed interest in helping out at the fair as monitors and educators on waste reduction and recycling.

— Source-to-Sea CT River Conservancy. Margot and others will be pulling water chestnut from the shores of the CT River along the Chester shoreline. At that time, they will evaluate whether a cleanup effort will be needed along the shores of Chester Creek. **Margot** to report on this.

— The Chester sustainable team will not be able to complete an application for Silver status in time for the August deadline. They expect to pursue this for the next application deadline in April 2023.

d. Cedar Lake invasive plant issues. Benthic barriers have been repositioned as planned outside of the swimming areas.

e.. Waste Management. No new developments.

f. Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS). Lisa submitted an article on an invasive species of pear for publication in the Fall edition of Chester Events.

#### Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS) — continued

A chart showing areas infested with knotweed has been on display at the Town Hall.

g. Pollinator Garden and sign. Kate is designing the sign. **Ted** will be putting 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.

**Ted** will be contacting Bill Meyers to see where the CLT is with the sign being developed for the Carini Preserve so that the appearance of the signs will be compatible.

h. Chester Dams discussion in the Fall. Lisa met with the planning group for this. They are assembling a panel of five speakers to cover different areas of interest including historical considerations, environmental concerns, legal requirements, and emergency management considerations. The panel discussion is scheduled to be held October 16th at the Meeting House.

Nate Jacobson has written a book about the dams in Chester.

### New Business

a. Schaller dock extension notice. Discussion of notification requirements. If Chester was expected to provide input, there was no time to do so. Chester received the notice only two days before the hearing. There was discussion of notification requirements for activities in tidal wetlands and watercourses. These are under State jurisdiction and may have requirements different from non-tidal wetlands and watercourses.

**Lisa** will inquire about this notification requirement and the status of the submerged aquatic vegetation that mapped in the area of the dock extension.

b. Commission member resignation and appointment. Peggy Wilson has resigned and hopefully will be replaced by Catherine Cahill, following appointment by the Selectmen. The Commission looks forward to greeting her at our next meeting.

### CarryOver items:

from June 2022: .

— **Margot** will see if RiverCOG knows of contractors who remove Knotweed.

**Adjournment:** 5:58 PM

**Next meeting Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 4:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway