

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM August 4, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 4:34 pm

Guests: None

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: Dock Application approval notice (see below)

Old Business

a. Envirotips: Rick has written Envirotips through the end of September and sent these to Jenny for weekly publication. **Rick** to check on thin-film recycling location at Adams. **Lisa** will prepare one on scrap textiles for October then we will do the next series on energy conservation. **Lisa** will set up a Google Docs page so that any member of the Commission may contribute an Envirotip in the future.

b. Open Space Mapping: Boundaries shown on the Chester map are not consistent with regional maps. **Sandy** will contact CAI to get this resolved.

c. SustainableCT. On to *Silver*.

— the Bike/Ped team has submitted the application for a State SafeStreets Audit.

— EV Charging stations — **Sandy** will contact Cathy Lezon at Eversource to clarify “make ready” costs. Three locations are being considered:

— “Zero Waste” Chester Fair. **Rick** to forward signup sheet from Kim P asking for volunteers to attend to recycling stations.

— Source-to-Sea CT River Conservancy. Rick and Margot had independently paddled Chester Creek and determined that there is no need for trash cleanup there. Margot discussed efforts to search for, report, and remove both water Chestnut and *hydrilla* from all Chester waterfronts. The Army Corps has funding for a pilot project to combat *hydrilla* in the CT River.

d. Cedar Lake invasive plant issues. No changes since last month.

e.. Waste Management. Lisa reported on the food scraps collection site at the Haddam waste transfer station. Chester needs to concentrate on major producers of for scraps — schools, institutions, and restaurants. **Rick** will check with Ted T about the possibility of having a compostables collection site at the annual Rotary Lobster Fest.

Discussion of how to encourage use of reusable mesh bags for produce at the Sunday Farmers’ Market. **Rick** to speak to vendors at fruit and vegetable stands.

f. Native and Invasive Plants subcommittee (NIPS). Discussion of knotweed control possibilities. Need to discuss control of knotweed with the Town Public Works. ARPA funding probably not available for control, but may cover development of a control plan. **Lisa** will contact people in Canton CT to see how they developed their plan and how they have implemented it.

g. Pollinator Garden and sign. **Lisa** may be able to complete design of the sign, has added text, and will speak to Ted T about what funding could be available from Rotary.

h. Chester Dams discussion in the Fall. The panel discussion is scheduled to be held October 16th at the Meeting House. Several groups will be participating, although the CT DEEP Has declined.

Rick to determine when Nate Jacobson's book about the dams in Chester will be available.

i. Schaller dock extension. Lisa to check with the DEEP to understand notification requirements and will ask BoS if the town had received notice of this prior to the time it was received by the CCC.

J. Vacancy on Commission. Catherine Cahill was unable to attend this meeting. **Lisa** will encourage her to join us and will check that she received information on how to be appointed.

New Business

- a. Conservation Commission Annual Report due to the town by 30 September. Lisa will base this on the format used in previous years.
- b. Commission/Board chairs to meet with First Selectman 13 September.
- c. Discussion as to whether the CCC should host a table at the Farmers' Market this year. What should be message and purpose?

Carryover items:

from June 2022: .

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

Adjournment: 5:59 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted, Richard Holloway