

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM October 6, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm.

Guests: Carolyn Trimarchi

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

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: email response from DEEP re-dock extension notification

Old Business

a. Chester dams panel discussion Oct 16

a. **MOTION:** That the Conservation Commission serve as co-host for this panel discussion. Approved unanimously.

b. Envirotips. All members may contribute to this on the Google Docs site forwarded by Lisa. There are only two tips in the queue, so **everyone** urged to add.

c. Open Space mapping. Two items to be resolved: (1) the definition of "Open Space," and (2) reconciling the town boundaries with adjacent towns. **Sandy** to discuss these with Margot.

d. SustainableCT. — Road Safety audit is scheduled for November 3rd.

— Discussion of food scrap collection pilot project initiated by the Deep River sustainable committee. The possibility of a similar project in Chester has been discussed with the principal of Chester Elementary School as well as with selectmen. It is unlikely to happen this year, but probably in 2023-2024.

— Discussion of what items Chester residents can take to shared Deep River/Chester transfer station. This has changed over the past year. **Kate** will ask Charlene J to clarify this matter. This can be the subject of future Envirotips.

— The rebate the town receives from the Nips bottle deposit program at present goes into the budget for the Town Crew since they do much of the cleanup of streets. There is an opportunity to tap some of this if needed for projects to improve recycling.

e. Zero Waste for Fair and Lobster Fest. Ted, as a Rotarian, has been discussing this with Kim Price. Both of these events generate a large amount of compostable wastes. They expect to have composting programs in place for both events in 2023.

f. Invasive/native plant education/action. Lisa provided an article for the next issue of Chester Events. Noted that Canton CT has a good program for management of invasive. Carolyn (guest) is supportive of similar roadside invasive plant management in Chester.

- g. Pollinator garden sign and Earth Day 2023. The design of the sign is completed. Ted has been working on a grant to finance both the sign and the purchase of native plants for the CCC and Rotary to distribute on Earth Day. Planning to unveil the sign at that time. Ted will organize a committee to include Lisa to follow through on details. Ted noted that there is a new informational sign on the north side of the sign board for the Carini preserve.
- h. Dock permit notification. In response to Lisa's inquiry about normal timing for notifying the town, the DEEP recognizes that the normal procedure was not followed in this case, and will be more thorough in the future.
- i. Commission Annual Report for 7/21-6/22. Lisa sent out for review by CCC and submitted on time.
- j. Commission/board chairs meeting with First Selectman on Sep 13. This meeting went well and will be repeated twice a year. It was noted that there will be a talk about Freedom of Information requirements on January 10, 2023.
- k. Vacancy on Commission. Possible candidates: Catherine Cahill, Caroline Trimarchi, Chris Hayward. **Lisa** will speak with them.

5. New Business.

- a. Possible grant for boat washing station at Cedar Lake. Discuss next month.
- b. CACIWC conference Oct 29 and annual renewal.
MOTION: to pay the Chester dues for Chester membership in CACIWC. Approved unanimously.
MOTION: to provide funding for one person to attend the annual conference in October 2022. Approved unanimously.

Adjournment at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting November 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway