

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM November 3, 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 4:30 pm

Guests: Lisa Hayward

Minutes: The minutes of the October 2022 regular meeting were approved unanimously with one abstention.

Audience of citizens: None in attendance

Correspondence: None

Old Business

a. Chester dams panel discussion Oct 16 : Over 50 attendees. The purpose was to provide a comprehensive and informative program and it proved to be just that; there were no recommendations for action. This meeting was recorded and will be available on the Historical Society website.

b. Envirotips. All members were encouraged to add additional tips to the Google Doc site forwarded last month by Lisa in an email dated 8/05/2022 to all members of the CCC.

c. Open Space mapping. **Sandy and Margot** will recommend a definition of “open space” to be adopted at the next meeting. Margot suggests that only those parcels which are permanently protected be considered. She will add parcels recently acquired by the Chester Land Trust. She will check to make sure this is consistent with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

d. SustainableCT. —

Bike and pedestrian safety: The Road Safety audit was conducted the morning of November 3rd. All in all, about 14 people participated, most of them from the DOT. It was a positive experience. A preliminary report for us to review is expected to be available in 6-8 weeks.

Food scraps collection: Unlikely that this will happen in the present school year at Chester Elementary, but likely in 2023-24. As for household food scrap collection, there is difficulty finding a suitable central location. f

EV Charging Station: The Merchants Association is in favor of having these. They will communicate their support to the Board of Finance. The team needs an estimate from Eversource for installation costs.

Waste reduction: There was a discussion of this at the recent CACIWC meeting which Lisa W attended. In Chester, there needs to be further clarification of what Chester residents can take to the shared transfer station. Lisa W mentioned that Calamari metal recycling site accepts wiring (power cords, light strings, etc.)

e. Invasive/native plant education/action. The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) website has extensive information on this subject, following their biennial conference.

f. Pollinator garden sign and Earth Day 2023. No report as Ted Taigen was not present.

g. CACIWC conference debrief and annual renewal. The Chester Inland Wetlands Agency and Conservation Commission will continue a shared membership in this organization.

h. Vacancy on Commission. Lisa Hayward is interested in joining the CCC. The procedure has been explained to her.

5. New Business.

a. Possible grant for boat washing station at Cedar Lake. Margot researched this and reported that such a station would be very expensive. The CCC and the Cedar Lake Advisory Committee must find ways to educate boaters about the problems posed by invasive aquatic plants.

b. Update on Invasive management at Carini and Scudder properties managed by the Chester Land Trust. The land trust has funding from a grant. There will be a discussion about this on December 6th at the Town Hall.

c. Lisa will check with the Town Clerk to find out when current commissioners terms expire. Sandy advised that when this happens, that person (if willing) needs to be re-appointed by the BOS.

Adjournment at 5:45 pm.

Next meeting December 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway