

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM January 5, 2023

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

Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the December 2022 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

2. **Audience of citizens:** None in attendance

3. **Correspondence:** CT Wildlife magazine (noted that past issues are available on-line), and donation requests from the CT Land Conservation Council and CT River Coastal Conservation District.

4. **Election of officers.** This was accomplished at the previous meeting.

5. Old Business

a. **Envirotips.** Noted that these can now include graphics; Kate will take 2nd week each month with a featured plant and Lisa H will take the 4th week with a native bird or wild creature. Sandy will write one soon on green electricity sourcing.

b. **Open Space mapping.** Nothing new to report.

c. **SustainableCT.**

Need to organize a team to address waste reduction.

Lisa spoke to the head chef at Masonicare who is receptive to providing a tour of their waste sorting practices. We will set up a date for this at the next Sustainable Chester (SuChest) meeting (Jan 18th). If possible, a second tour may be arranged to include Chester elementary school, Camp Hazen, The Guest House, Apple rehab and Aaron Manor.

The excellent presentation of the What's in / What's Out was recorded and is available via the Deep River town website, <https://www.deepriverct.us/home/news/watch-whats-whats-out-recycling-workshop-held-126-online>.

A draft copy of the road safety audit has just been received.

A request for cost information for the proposed EV charging station has been submitted to Eversource. We await a response.

d. **Invasive plant education/action:**

Lisa H submitted an article on mile-a-minute vine for the next issue of Chester Events.

e. **Pollinator garden sign.** Lisa W awaits the new Town website to create a new QR code to link the pollinator sign to the CCC webpage and plant info. Once we have a new web page and QR code, she will order the sign.

f. **Refilling vacancy on Commission.**

The CCC is delighted to have Lisa Hayward on board as a new member!

g. **Cedar Lake** The Cedar Lake Watershed Advisory Committee may reconsider an ordinance; the Conservation Commission will stay in contact.

h. **Management of invasives at Carini and Scudder preserves.** The Chester Land Trust has received three grants to address the knotweed problem and management. Lisa is consulting with the Land Trust and has stressed the importance of replacement plantings.

6. **New Business.**

a. MOTION: To approve the 2023 meeting schedule. Approved unanimously.

b. Budget approval postponed. Sandy emailed the detailed budget proposal from 2022-23 to the Commission.

c. MOTION: To authorize payments of \$50 to the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc. and \$100 to the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. (Both had been included in the 2022 and 2023 budgets.) Approved unanimously.

d. The CCC goals, which had been distributed by the chairman were agreed upon. Kate offered to post the Commission By-laws on the town webpage. Margot forwarded maps from the town's previous Natural Resource Inventory to the Commission to review.

Adjournment at 5:37 pm.

Next meeting February 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway