

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM April 6, 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.

Motion (LW, 2<sup>nd</sup> LH) to adjust the agenda to entertain items 4b and e first to accommodate people who had to leave early. Passed unanimously

**1. Minutes:** The minutes of March 2023 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

**2. Audience of citizens:** None

**3. Correspondence:** None

### **4. Old Business**

a. **Envirotips.** *Lisa H* will provide next tip (birds); *Kate* the week after (plants).

**b. Open Space mapping.** Most issues reported for last month have been resolved (i.e., which properties to include). The most recent map from Margot was just emailed to all members.

Sandy has a complete inventory from 2012 provided by the DEEP. Easements are not included. *Sandy and Lisa W and Margot* will review these in May.

### **c. SustainableChester (SuChest).**

Tour of Masonicare food scrap recovery for composting was interesting. Discussion of next steps to increase recovery of organics town-wide. No conclusions reached. Discussion of possible alternate haulers of compostables. *Rick* will investigate whether a tour of the system recently adopted at Essex Elementary School is possible.

EV charging station - Nothing new to add.

No discussion this time of a possible community garden.

**d. Invasive/native plant education/action:** Fact sheets on all invasive plants featured have been loaded onto the CCC website. Discussion of possibility of creating a pamphlet for these with emphasis on control.

Judy Preston will be presenting a talk at the Meeting House on April 16th, 3:00 PM, on landscaping with native plants. *Kate* to arrange for opening the Meeting House and will review how to use the equipment there for Power Point presentations. MOTION: To authorize expenditure of \$100 from the CCC budget as an honorarium for Judy. (LW/LH) Approved unanimously.

**e. Pollinator garden / Earth Day.** The interpretive sign has been installed. A photograph of it will appear in the town-wide newsletter this week. *Lisa W* will create an article about Earth Day and the pollinator garden for the next issue of Chester Events.

### **Earth Day, April 22**

Chester Land Trust roadside cleanup scheduled for 9:00 AM.

CCC will share tables with Rotary which is providing the tables. **Kate** will have the CCC banner. **All members** of the CCC intend to be there from noon on.

**f. Cedar Lake.** The Cedar Lake Watershed Committee met last week. There is a clear need for better education on the risks of introducing invasive aquatic plants to the lake. **Rick** will be drafting a possible press release or input to a Valley Courier article.

**g. Review of Chester Conservation Commission website.** The site is up-to-date with all invasive plant fact sheets, and the dead links were corrected. We may consider adding information on waste reduction, composting and recycling to the website.

### **5. New Business.**

- a. The Laurel Hill Cemetery to N Quarter Park Trail. Lisa sent John Ivimy's email as well as a map showing the most recent suggested trail location to all members of the CCC for review. **Lisa W** will check to make sure all abutting property owners are being kept informed. Suggestion that those planning the trail provide neighbors with suitable native plantings to define private property boundaries. Concern about long-term trail maintenance. **Rick** will investigate whether any Eagle Scouts might be interested in improving the small stream crossing at N Qtr Park.
- b. **Great Cedar Swamp Walk with Emery Gluck May 1 (rain date May 2) at 5:00 PM.** **All members** encouraged to attend.
- c. **Native plantings for town cemeteries.** No one was able to attend the tour of the cemetery on Cedar Lake Road. Nevertheless, this item will be continued in future CCC meetings.

Adjournment at 5:26 pm.

**Next meeting May 4, 2023**

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway