

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM July 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 4:33 pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the May 4th and May 25th meetings were approved unanimously.

2. Audience of citizens: None

3. Correspondence: (a) letter to BOS regarding electronics recycling, natural resource maps from RiverCog, (b) Update on Laurel Hill Trail.

4. Old Business

a. **Envirotips.** Because of the amount of work involved, these will be published every other week. In order to understand the effectiveness of these, the next Envirotip will include a means for readers to send feedback to the CCC. **Sandy** will send information on the email address for the CCC, which he had set up several years ago.

b. Open Space mapping.

A working version is available in ArcGIS Online. **Sandy** will send a link to the CCC. Concerns about downloading information from ArcGIS Online.

c. SustainableChester (SuChest).

Zero Waste Chester Fair: Planning for this is going well. Kim Price is asking for additional volunteers to monitor waste stations and to empty garbage cans.

Lobster Fest food scrap collection. Ted not present, so no report. **Rick** to contact Jan Taigen to see if this is still a possibility.

Silver status application. Due date is August 15th. Summer RiverCOG intern (named Summer) is extremely helpful. Struggling to get the 500 points required.

Lisa is working on the well stewarded lands (Sustainable CT actions section 3). Kate found a copy of the 1999 open space plan in a town records. An update will probably not be possible by August 15th, but we'll work on getting the open space inventory done.

Waste reduction: Lots of interest in containers for recyclables downtown. Tour of very modern materials recovery plant in Berlin has been arranged.

EV Charging station. Grant from Eversource approved.

Community garden - Synagogue has plots available. To be mentioned in weekly town newsletter.

d. Invasive/native plant education/action:

Mowing of Knotweed along straits road may be facilitating further propagation. **Lisa** to talk to DPW regarding effectiveness of various control measures.

Both scheduled presentations at the Carini Preserve were rained out. No new dates proposed.

Margot reported finding several patches of water chestnut in Chester creek during a recent survey. She noted this on a map she recently distributed.

e. **Cedar Lake.** Cedar Lake Watershed Committee (CLWC) has drafted designs for more informative signs at the boat launch. These must be cleared through CT State agencies. CLWC has started planning for an information session to help recruit people who can help monitor for *hydrilla* and other invasives.

f. **The Laurel Hill Cemetery to N Quarter Park Trail.**

Information session scheduled July 11th at Town Hall. Abutting property owners have been contacted. CCC has concerns about littering and monitoring.

There are no Eagle Scouts available at present to examine ways to improve the small stream crossing at North Quarter Park.

5. New Business.

a. New natural Inventory Maps have been uploaded to Silver SustainableCT application. Most layers are available on the town GIS, except a drainage basin layer. The conservation information from the 2009 PoCD will be distributed to CCC members; plan contained natural inventory information.

b. Electronics recycling. This is required by state law, but the development of facilities is behind schedule. Lisa had requested that BoS add electronics recycling to the just-released transfer station contract with Deep River. Contract is annual, so may have to wait. **Rick** will determine if either Essex or Haddam would be interested in meeting this need in the future. Does this waste stream generate income? Suggestion made that collection of electronics waste be added to document shredding program sponsored by Essex Savings Bank. To be follow up by **Rick**.

c. Places to enjoy nature. **Lisa** will distribute to CCC members the outdoor recreation opportunities document which was developed under the "Long-term Recovery" project launched at the beginning of the epidemic. **Kate** will add a link to this document somewhere via the town website.

D. Goals and future projects. None suggested

Adjournment at 6:00 pm.

Next meeting August 3, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway & Lisa Wahle