

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM October 5, 2023

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

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm.

1. Minutes: The minutes of the September 7th meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Audience of citizens: None

3. Correspondence:

(1) Letter from the CCC to the Chester Inland Wetlands Agency regarding the proposed trail from North Quarter Park to the Laurel Hill Cemetery.

(2) Noted that we have not been receiving printed copies of The Habitat publication of CACIWC, but that these are available on the CACIWC website.

(3) Letter to Chester Fair Committee from CCC and SuChester commending the zero-waste effort

4. Old Business

a. **Envirotips.** This week's tip announces that the CT River strain of Hydrilla has been found in four CT Lakes, and provides info on the "Clean, Drain, Dry" protocol for boaters. A tip regarding the collection of electronic wastes at the United Church parking lot on October 28th will be published in the weekly town-wide email. **Lisa W** will ask the Valley Courier to publish this in their weekly calendar. **Lisa H** working on tip about Canada Geese.

b. Open Space mapping. Nothing new.

c. SustainableChester (SuChester).

(1) Chester has received Silver Certification. The award will be presented at an event on October 17th.

(2) Rotary Club Lobster Fest. Deep Hollow Farm accepted 4 large bags of this material from the corn husking. In addition, Ted retrieved all bottles and cans from the remaining waste for recycling. **Ted** will investigate purchasing some of the aluminum frame recycling collectors which proved effective at the Chester Fair. Although primarily for use at the Lobster Fest next year, these might be available for other town events.

(3) Recycling downtown. The large, blue recycling container loaned by the Little House to the Sunday Markets to collect pizza boxes has been very successful. **Lisa W** will speak to the owners of Little House to determine if they could provide these year-round as a public service.

d. Invasive/Native plant education/action

(1) The Rotary Club is planning to support the seedling distribution again in 2024.

(2). Because of the die-off of so many native trees, the Commission may also look into planting a native memorial tree at a location yet to be determined.

e. Cedar Lake Committee (CLWC)

The spread of *hydrilla* is of increasing concern. In addition to infesting the Connecticut River, it is now found in at least 4 lakes in CT. The Town of Coventry spends over \$100,000 annually combating an invasion there. The CLWC will promote the clean-drain-dry campaign by pursuing better signage at all boat launches in town, and by encouraging all users of Cedar Lake to watch for and report any sightings.

f. Natural Resources Inventory. Nothing new to report.

g. CCC website. Nothing new to report.

New Business

- a. The Annual report from the CCC has been submitted.
- b. The Annual CACIWC conference will be held on November 11th. Information on this program is available at:
<https://www.caciwc.org/pages/annualMtg/2023/index.html>
- c. Ted, Lisa and Kate need to be re-instated
- d. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Next meeting November 2, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Richard Holloway & Lisa Wahle