

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
Chester Town Hall and via Microsoft Teams
4:30 PM February 1, 2024

Members: 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 from January 4th were approved unanimously with the following edit: 4.b.(1) Replace “a list for Acer Gardens or another nursery” with “a list for local nurseries.” The January 29th special meeting minutes were approved unanimously. **Kate H** will distribute information on how to view the recording of the meeting.

2. Audience of citizens: None

3. Correspondence: Notices for 2 conferences of interest. (CLCC and Urban Forestry)

4. Old Business

- a. **Envirotips.** Suggestions are always welcome. Seasonally appropriate tips are preferred. The hardest part is condensing material into short paragraphs. Recycling is always a good topic. Kate suggested vernal pools. **Ted T** will compose a few paragraphs on calls of spring frogs, with hyperlinks to audio files.
- b. **Sustainable Chester Updates**
A meeting was hosted by Energea, a new business in Chester center, on Jan 22nd to discuss town-wide planning for Earth Day. Energea is taking a lead role with overall coordination by Bekah Wright.
Rotary will contribute \$300 for pollinator plant purchases; the Cons Comm will contribute \$200. **Lisa W** is working with Bushy Hill Nature Center teachers and students to grow out some plants from seed.
- c. **Waste Management**
Kim Price hopes to involve youth groups in the recycling effort at the Chester Fair this year. They would receive the 10 cent redemption for recovered recyclables. **Ted** has talked to Kim about purchasing aluminum frames for use with clear bags to collect recyclables at the Chester Fair and other events like the Lobster Fest and Sunday markets. Currently these receptacles are rented. There was discussion that this might be tagged onto a larger grant being worked on by Representative Palm.
- d. **Natural Resources Inventory**

Using Andover's approach as a model, we plan to use available natural resource layers in ArcGIS, finalize the Chester open space layer and create layers as needed. This will allow us to review sensitive areas, consider conservation corridors and provide meaningful input to the POCD and applications that come before regulatory land use agencies. **Rick** will talk with Nancy Byrne, Cedar Lake Watershed Commission, about coordinating efforts for the Cedar Lake watershed. There will be a special meeting of the CCC on Feb 16th 1 PM to review open space parcels and natural resource mapping.

- e. Old County Road parcel conservation easement.
Lisa W will send a letter to Inland Wetlands with copies to P&Z and the Zoning Enforcement Officer requesting that the intent of the deed restriction be observed, i.e. that this parcel be used for agriculture or conservation.

5. New Business

- a. Open Space inventory. Updates are needed to the Open Space notebooks in the Town Clerk's vault, including filing some deeds. **Kate H and Lisa W** will work to match these with the appropriate descriptions of open spaces. The attribute table for the Open Space map is largely complete, but we need to confirm whether some parcels should be considered open space, and if there is legal protection on a number of parcels.
- b. The CCC unanimously approved the proposed CCC budget for 2024-25.
- c. Proposed expanded parking at the Fire House.
The CCC will seek to ensure that environmental concerns and low impact design for stormwater are taken into account in the planning of this project. Action:
Sandy P, Lisa W and Rick H.

Meeting adjourned 6 PM.

Next meeting March 7, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Richard Holloway and Lisa Wahle