

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting  
4:30 PM, January 3, 2019

Members: Rick Holloway, Sandy Prisloe, Peggy Wilson, Pat Woomer, Margot Burns, Ted Taigen, Lisa Wahle (\* = not in attendance)

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM

**Minutes:** of the December 2018 meeting were approved.

**Audience of citizens:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business**

a. **Storm Drain Stenciling:** Sandy has the paint. We await temperatures above 50F for testing stencils.

b. **EnviroTips:** **Ted** will check with Jenny to see if the electronic versions of the EnviroTips are still available and if they can be easily assembled into a book.

c. **PoCD updates/issues/concerns:**

PoCD is available on Town website. **All CCC members** to review this and pass concerns and ideas on to **Sandy** before 2/07 who will forward this information to preparers. February 22 is the end of the review period; scheduled for adoption 3/14/19.

Discussion of draft: This is a watered-down version of the previous plan. There are very few action items. The CT State mandate for conservation has not been considered. There are no natural resources base maps and almost no concern for the environment.

d. **Boardwalk NQP to Laurel Hill Cemetery:** **Ted** will be meeting with Steve Tiezzi who has knowledge of North Quarter Park because of his involvement with the Library/NQP project.

Discussion about the size and purpose of the viewing platform.

e. **CCC's role in SustainableCT:** The sustainability committee has still not been organized at this time. Margot reported that the summer interns at RiverCOG never issued a report of the various towns' progress on the sustainableCT program. They did not work on any issues for Chester.

**New Business**

a. **MOTION:** to appoint Sandy as chair, Rick as vice-chair/recording secretary for 2019. Seconded and approved unanimously.

- b. Priority projects for 2019. Some suggestions made at the present meeting include:(1) The problems posed by the large number of dead trees (gypsy moth and drought).(2) Workshop on tree health and management.  
(3)Updating the Open Space inventory. Determine whether town open space parcels are protected in perpetuity. Give conservation easements to the Land Trust. Denote the purpose of open space parcels. Include parcels added since the last inventory. Digitize the two notebooks which are presently the only copies of this information.  
(4) Update the Plan for Open Space.  
(5) Public information programs (bats, local wildlife, changing forests, etc.. **Sandy** will contact Tom Worthley about a program on managing private as well as State forests. **Lisa** will contact Emory Gluck about a similar programs. Suggestion that one or more bird walks be promoted. **Ted and Lisa** will speak with John Himmelman (Killingworth), Hank Gruder (UConn) about a program on amphibians, including a field trip.  
(6) Composting  
(7) Citizen Science

c. Concern about the timing of the mowing of the field adjacent to Aaron Manor. Early mowing affected pollinators. **Margot** will determine who owns these fields. **Lisa** will investigate best practices so the CCC can write a letter to Chester Inland Wetlands Agency .

d. Peggy has been Chester's representative to the Gateway Commission for many years. **All members of the CCC** are asked to suggest persons to fill the two open positions from Chester.

### **Carryovers of incomplete action items**

(1) Re: Composting. Ted has spoken with Selectman Charlene Janecek about the materials (mostly leaves, wood chips and animal waste from the Chester Fair) which has been dumped on a steep slope above Chester Creek. Nutrient-rich runoff from this pile is a problem because it runs directly into the Creek. **The CCC** will work towards solving this problem. *This item will be discussed at December meeting. Sandy to notify Inland Wetlands.*

(2) # **Sandy** will contact Dick Harald of Chester Land Trust to see if he has a copy of the management plan for Chester Creek which was prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service. *Sandy will talk to new president of Chester Land Trust, Priscilla.*

(3) # **Margot** will talk to Jenny Dixon (DEEP) about having another bat program, similar to the one hosted by the Chester Land Trust a few years ago. *Continue this as a carryover item.*

(4) # **Lisa** will investigate whether the State DEEP has detailed mapping of the mean high water lines.

(5) # **Margot** will investigate tax deductions for dead tree removal and will send the info to all. **Peggy** will include in Envirotips.

**Adjournment:** 5:45 PM

**Next meeting February 7, 2019 at 4:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted, R. P. Holloway