

Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting
4:30 PM, June 6, 2019

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

Meeting called to order at 4:40 PM

Minutes: of the May 2019 meeting were approved.

Audience of citizens: None

Correspondence: A request for funding from the CT River Conservancy (formerly the CR Watershed Association). Since this is not in the present budget, we took no action. We will consider including it in the 2020-2021 budget.

Old Business

- a. Plans for a tree management workshop - June 12 at 7:00 pm
 - **Sandy** will open the Meeting House at 6:30 PM for setup. He will provide a means to raise the stand for the projector, and will provide name tags.
 - **Lisa** will provide AV equipment and will purchase refreshments for approx 40 attendees. . **MOTION:** to spend CC funds for refreshments. Approved unanimously.

- b. Envirotips
 - Margot suggested a future tip on why not to dump home aquarium water into water-courses or waterbodies. (Invasives)

- c. Observation Platform at Laurel Hill

No update.

- d. Review the list of Open Action Items.

No action was taken on this.

- e. CC's role in Chester's sustainability program

Two interns are available through RiverCOG for a six-week period. **Sandy** will email Lauren to request their services to perform an assessment of Chester's progress.
Discussion as to whether the proposed "sustainability" initiative will produce any results to justify the time invested in it.

- f. Proposed Septic System at Aaron Manor.

Margot reported on the discussions at the Inland Wetlands public hearing. (for information only.)

New Business

See next page.

NEW BUSINESS

- a.. Review of CCC Webpage. **All members** should view this before the next meeting in order to determine what needs to be updated.
- b. CCC info booth in community tent at July 14th Farmers' Market
Discussed featuring aquatic invasives, in particular hydrilla. **Sandy** will contact Tom Brelsford about having Cedar Lake Watershed Committee share the table. Should we approach CT Water Company as well?
On June 18th there will be a talk at the Essex Town Hall on the "Clean, Drain, Dry" program. Margot will be attending as one of the speakers. **Margot** will determine if any handouts are available for the Farmers' Market booth. **Peggy** will provide an Envirotip a week before the program .
- c. Storm Drain Stenciling
MOTION to spend up to \$100 from the CC budget for additional paint. **Sandy** will purchase this. Sandy awaits info from Tom Brelsford to schedule a work date to mark drains at Cedar Lake.
Ted will help coordinate a suitable workday. **Sandy** will arrange to borrow fluorescent orange vests and cones from Public Works

Adjournment: 5:50 PM

Next meeting July 11, 2019 at 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, R. P. Holloway

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.
- (6) # 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 .
- (7) # 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.
- (8) # **Rick** will start to assemble town-wide inventory of vernal pools.
- (9) # Storm Drain Stenciling: Sandy has the paint. We await temperatures above 50F for testing stencils. The Cedar Lake Watershed Committee is eager to participate in this program and will help paint catchbasins in the Cedar Lake Terrace area.