

## Minutes of Conservation Commission Meeting

4:30 PM, October 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 4:40 PM

**Minutes:** approval of the minutes of the July meeting had not reached all members of the commission and was tabled. On a motion by Peggy, seconded by Lisa, the September minutes were unanimously approved (Margot abstained)

**Audience of citizens:** None

**Correspondence:** Notice of Annual Meeting, November 23, 2019, CT Assoc. of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions was received. Lisa will attend.

### Old Business

- a. **EnviroTips:** Peggy has a series of tips ready for the fall. Lisa suggested a tip that focuses on how to manage/compost oak leaves.
- b. EnviroTips Publication: **Ted**, no report
- c. Laurel Hill Cemetery overlook: **Ted**, no report
- d. SustainableCT: **Pat**, had emailed nothing to report
- e. Storm Drain Stenciling: **Sandy**, reported that Ted, Pat and he have completed stenciling North Main St., Liberty St. and Main St. from around the entrance to Laurel Hill Cemetery to Rt. 154. Additional stenciling will be done in the next few weeks.
- f. Main St. Project Planting Plan: **Lisa**, reported that she, Margot and Sandy attended a Main St. Project Committee meeting and recommended using native plantings (trees, shrubs, flowers) as appropriate in the landscaping plan. Scot Mills, Chester Tree Warden, also attended and concurred with the use of native trees. Subsequently, the project architect, Kent Frost, revised the the landscaping plan which now includes mostly native trees.

### New Business

- a. Beaver Dam, Upper Jennings Pond: Members discussed the beaver dam constructed slightly upstream of the existing mill dam on the pond. Sandy had received an email from a property owner who abuts the pond that reported that a resident had been removing the beaver dam and questioned if this was advisable and allowed. However, it now appears that the beaver dam has been completed and whoever was removing it has stopped. Information also had been reported to Lauren Gister. She expressed

concerned about a resident removing the dam. It was the general consensus of members that the beaver dam should be allowed to remain until or unless it caused property damage to surrounding properties. According to the town's GIS website, the pond and mill dam is owned by the town – this needs to be confirmed – and only the town should remove the beaver dam if it's decided that is the necessary course of action.

b. There was some discussion of invasive plant problems along town roads.

**Adjournment:** 6:10 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
S. Prisloe for R. Holloway