

Windsor Conservation Commission

February 23, 2021, Zoom Meeting

Draft Minutes

Present: A. Beaudin, A. Adams, L. Chayes, J. Henry, J. Klase, S. LeGendre, N. Pepin, B. Robinson, N. Sachdev, C. Yeich; ex officio, E. Perko

Absent: T. Young

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

- Emily informed us that she is leaving her position at town hall and will be replaced temporarily by Todd Sealy. In reference to the open space map that was recently sent to the members, Emily noted that the numbers placed on open space areas represented a value system. She also stated that these parcels, should they be used, would only qualify for passive recreation.
- Individuals informally welcomed new member Sherwin LeGendre. We are very pleased to have Sherwin join us and also to have reached the full complement of the Commission.
- Ann mentioned that there is much happening legislatively. Bill HB 5619 is addressing Climate Change Education, which opened up a discussion on student involvement in the Commission's mission and other important environmental issues. The end resulted in Chair Ann offering to draft a letter to the Science department heads in each of the Windsor schools requesting that they survey the students to see where their interests lie and, also to ascertain if there would be participation in various programs sponsored by the Commission. Giving students an idea of CC projects might offer incentives for participation.
Several ideas for participation were mentioned: i.e. involvement in the plastics collection/bench reward that is presently being pursued; survey of invasive species in specified areas, taking photos of spring birds and posting them on the CC website, survey areas on the OS map, research opportunities at Northwest Park, and pitch in to help celebrate Earth Day. Ayse will send Ann the list of schools as suggested by CC members. Julie would be willing to give an "insect walk" for a small number of students. Now is the time to plan CC activities for April and summer which may open-up audience participation from the confinement of COVID.
- Lea continues to work on the plastics collection program. Also, she would like to pursue the construction of a solar energy area for community usage. Unused parking lots or "brown" spaces would be the areas of choice. Zoning is a huge consideration. Sherwin mentioned that solar power on existing town buildings could be extremely beneficial as well. This is a large-scale project that needs involvement, support and backing. Emily

made us aware that the state regulates large scale solar projects. Perhaps writing an article on the pros of solar should be the first step. Todd Sealy is on the Clean Energy Task Force and could be a valuable resource. Organizing a forum on solar also might be another push toward getting this off the ground.

- Lea motioned to approve the January 26th minutes, seconded by Ann. Approved unanimously. 9.0.1 (New member, Sherwin abstained)
- Ann asked Emily for advice on what we should be focusing – her response was Millbrook. There is a loose plan, however much work needs to be done. There is no invasive management plan in place. She suggested applying for a grant from the Trust for Public Lands.

Lea moved to adjourn at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Ayse.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich,
CC Secretary