

Windsor Conservation Commission

April 27, 2021

Draft Minutes

Zoom Meeting

**Present:** A. Adams, A. Beaudin, L. Chayes, J. Henry, S. LeGendre, N. Pepin, B. Robinson, T. Young, C. Yeich; ex officio Todd Sealy and Chloe Thompson

**Absent:** J. Klase, N. Sachdev

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Ann motioned to accept the March 30th minutes, seconded by J. Henry; passed unanimously: 9.0.0

-A communication from Commissioner Neill Sachdev was read. Unfortunately, Neill wrote that he is resigning from the commission due to a hectic schedule with work, advancement classes and community involvement. We will miss his keen insight, knowledge of, and involvement in commission activities and its mission. It is hopeful that he will return after his busy schedule ebbs.

-Todd Sealy introduced the new Environmental Planner & Inland Wetlands Agent, Chloe Thompson who will act as the CC point person.

-A motion was made by J. Henry, seconded by T. Young, and passed unanimously (9.0.0) to honor Bonnie Karkowski, Jim Govoni and the Windsor Library with the CC's 2021 Recognition Award. Certificates will be printed, names added, framed, and distributed by Ann and Colette.

**-Planned Activities** – On May 15<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Brad Robinson will lead the group of CC members to walk the former Traditions/Mill Brook property. Brad mentioned flora that attracts bees and butterflies is abundant. Ann mentioned sightings of the “protected” box turtle. The concern is that this gem is preserved by the town as open space. Todd believes that it will be preserved in perpetuity and is slated to be used for passive recreation. Chloe mentioned that there were several suggestions for usage including community gardens and walking paths and that the Engineering Department is on board.

Nigel suggested forming a “Friends” volunteer group to help with clearing and other maintenance duties. Todd mentioned that town may be using special pesticides that would not be conducive to volunteer clearing of invasive species.

Colette inquired as to whether monies have been appropriated in the budget for management. Todd mentioned that the DPW mows regularly, however no management plan is in place for the future. The question remains - what is to be done with the club house? Suggestions included event space, restaurant, catering, and farmers' market.

**-May forum:** Several options were discussed. Potential presenters included: Atty Amy Patterson on conservation, Sena Wazer on climate change, Jim Govoni on trees, and Gordon Kenneson on gardening. It was decided that due to the emergence of summer, some aspect of gardening would be appropriate. Ann will contact Gordon. It was suggested that Amy be contacted now to secure her for a September forum.

**-June River/Nature Walk** – led by Commissioner Brad will take place either the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> of June (whichever does not coincide with Northwest Park's annual meeting date). 10:00 A.M. if Sat.; 2 P.M. if Sun. Brad will provide a write up for advertising purposes.

**-Littering Campaign** – Colette reported that the cost for fifty 12 X 18 signs (in red) @ 3.95 each plus \$1.00 per stand would total \$247.50. Sherwin asked if they could be reflective, which she will pursue.

The slogan will appear as “You Litter, You Pay” with the typical logo of silhouetted image of a person discarding \$\$ in a receptacle. Todd will reference the budget to see if this can be supported.

-Tammy will do more research on “Tree City USA” and report at the May meeting.

-Ann mentioned resurrecting the WOW (Wonder of Windsor) contest. She will send info on protocol.

-Things remain status quo on the CC website.

**New Business** – Julie talked about creating a pamphlet on the “insect apocalypse.” Studies have shown that insect populations that feed a variety of birds and fish are decreasing in number causing unbalanced biodiversity. Gardeners should be encouraged to grow plants that help feed songbirds and other fauna native to this area. Plant natives, not exotics. Brad noted that there is adequate information on this topic via DEEP and the Cooperative Extension. It was suggested that perhaps a display could be set up in the library. Julie will contact Gaye Rizzo at the library.

-Nigel described Crowd Hydrology - a project monitoring stream levels. It involves reading the height of a river/stream/brook with a ruler and sending results to a designated station. It is an activity that can be done by anyone and might be something in which to get involved.

-Sherwin inquired as to whether we had any clout in suggesting plantings at the new Amazon building on Kennedy Road to enhance the view from the street. Todd believes that would be a TPZ issue.

Lea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M. seconded by Julie, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich  
Secretary  
Unbalanced biodiversity