

## **Windsor Conservation Commission**

**January 25, 2022**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Draft Minutes**

**Present:** A. Beaudin, L Chayes, J. Henry, S. LeGendre, N. Pepin, T. Young, C. Yeich; ex officio, C. Thompson

**Absent:** A. Adams, B. Robinson

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

Chair Ann motioned to accept the October 26, 2021 minutes; seconded by commissioner Chayes. Passed unanimously 7.0.0

### **Old Business**

**WCC Website** – Commissioner Henry spoke about including a link to a seminar originating from the Smithsonian regarding proper plantings (i.e., goldenrod, wildflowers) to attract insects, such as moths and butterflies, thus providing food for birds as a necessary part of the food chain. She will work on an article for publication in the Windsor Journal. The draft will be sent to the members for approval.

Chair Ann added that fertilizers/weed killer is a problem with the diminishing insect population. Chloe will place the link on the CC website as well as any upcoming forum notices and will add a sidebar with a link to the Smithsonian seminar.

**Future Forums** – The main issue with organizing a forum, it was agreed, is community involvement. Involvement of the schools was brought out by Commissioner Henry. It was pointed out that the Elementary schools are the most receptive. Commissioner Henry was interested in getting children involved as they are the future stewards of open space and preserving vulnerable areas. She suggested encouraging planting pollinator gardens in their own backyards by making up packets with seeds and information for distribution. It was also pointed out that announcements are usually made via the Windsor Journal, the Chamber website, WIN TV, flyers, and our own personal email lists of individuals.

Chloe informed us that Todd Sealy had been in the forefront of the town being awarded a \$3,400 Urban Forestry Grant.

**Article Ideas** – Chair Ann will write an article on the value of trees; Nigel will write about flood mitigation and preparedness including basic needs during an emergency incident. Julie will write about plantings that attract insects that feed birds. Links will be available on the website.

### **New Business**

**Sustainability CT**– Two projects need to be accomplished prior to April 5<sup>th</sup> to complete the certification criteria for the Bronze Certification.

- 1. Watershed Pledge** – Chloe explained the details of this pledge for resident participation in protecting our watershed areas. This pledge consists of a checklist of environmental responsibilities requiring action by the participant. The “Pledge” will be publicly available through the CC website and other community media.

Chloe will place the checklist on the CC's webpage and will also check with Enita Jubrey from town hall for additional announcement suggestions. It could also be posted on Facebook and other social media. Commissioner Young will send the information to the Windsor Bulletin Board. The Windsor Journal is another means of getting the word out.

- 2. Host a Workshop** - Invasive Species was the topic agreed upon; specifically Bittersweet, as homeowners are familiar with this invasive and can tackle the problem. A basic informational flyer needs to be produced. Requirements include: creating a flyer, placing the information on the website and hosting a workshop. Slated for March.

Commissioner Robinson has already committed to giving a talk on invasive species.

**Town Business and Open Space** – initiatives to protect open space requires sustainable action. It would be ideal to encourage/require builders to incorporate geothermal, solar and other environmental technologies into their projects; however, it would be extremely difficult to push for the town to alter their building codes.

**Vacant Land** – Chloe distinguished between vacant land and open space. Vacant land is not open space. Open space is town owned land that is accessible to the general public. It is in our purview to educate and bring awareness to these areas. Chair Ann pointed out that it is a misconception that development reduces taxes as many amenities are needed when subdivisions and industrial structures are built.

**Decarbonize Windsor** – fossil fuel subsidies were mentioned, however nothing substantive was discussed.

**Students & Conservation.** It's always a challenge to get youth involved in town functions. Getting the message to students of upcoming CC events is difficult and the results often disappointing. Chair Ann is willing to contact the high school and the middle school to inquire about student interest in environmental issues and programs.

**Elections** have been tabled for next month when all members will hopefully be in attendance.

Colette motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25, seconded by Nigel.

Unanimously accepted. 7.0.0

Respectfully Submitted,

Colette Yeich, Secretary