

Windsor Conservation Commission
Draft Minutes
Zoom Meeting, February 23, 2022

Present: A. Beaudin, A. Adams, L Chayes, J. Henry, N. Pepin, B. Robinson, T. Young, C. Yeich; ex officio, C. Thompson

Absent: S. LeGendre

Guest: T. Sealy

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Commissioner Young moved to accept the minutes from January 25; seconded by Chair Ann.

Passed unanimously: 8.0.0

Old Business

Invasive Species – As part of the CT Sustainability program, the CC will sponsor a Zoom forum on March 23, from 7-8 p.m. Commissioner Robinson will present a power point on invasive plant species. As a follow-up, an in-person walk, led by Commissioner Robinson, will be scheduled during the warmer weather, when live species can be easily identified. The presentation is expected to run for about an hour - 40 minutes, followed by Q & A. Brad will send verbiage to Chloe for advertising purposes. Members are encouraged to add comments. Spreading the word via personal email lists, WIN-TV, Northwest Park members, town Facebook pages, garden club members; notices in the Windsor Journal & Hartford Courant are expected. Future forums can also be mentioned at that time – Climate Change, Composting, E-Cycle.

Future Forums – the Sunrise group is amenable to giving a workshop, perhaps in person in September. Chair Ann has the green light to anchor a date with the library and the presenters. Commissioner Henry suggested asking the library to provide a display of books pursuant to that topic.

New Business

Urban Forestry Grant – Todd Sealy spoke to this. Windsor has been awarded a \$34,720 grant for tree restoration. This was a collaboration between various departments at town hall. Detailed area analyses were conducted. As a result, the Wilson and Deerfield areas of town, including Sharshon and Deerfield Parks, will be dressed with 91 trees native to CT, ID signage, infographics, and more. Among the goals are to promote urban forestry and climate change. The challenge will be community involvement: getting youth services, libraries, volunteer groups, schools, boards and commissions, etc. to participate in projects that emphasize the benefits of parks and green spaces and how trees/forests help climate change, climate relief, and habitats.

Todd has budgeted \$1,000 for signage/plaques for tree identification.

Todd asked for ideas on getting community participation.

- A trip to the parks as well as community cleanup of the parks to coincide with Arbor Day/Earth Day was suggested.

- Commissioner Beaudin suggested resurrecting the WOW contest that the Commission sponsored in the 90's. A variety of divisions from elementary age school children to adult participation would have to be established. Entries could include essays, or poems, or photos or drawings about trees/nature/Windsor's parks/open spaces, etc. The details need to be hammered out. Chair Ann expand on this at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Henry thought a treasure hunt would be fun for school age children and she is willing to put an activity sheet together. Julie will send out some sample sheets.
- Another commissioner suggested getting the Boy Scouts involved.

Several members queried as to what varieties of trees would be planted. Todd said that all selections would be native to this part of the country, and much is dependent on the health and availability of the nursery stock. He will send lists of trees to the members.

Todd requests that we continue to send him suggestions on how to engage the public.

Protecting Wildlife – Chair Ann will put an article (infused with humor) together on living safely with wildlife and how one should react when encountering unexpected creatures. Protecting household pets will also be mentioned. She requested that members send her any information they would like to include. Brad suggested accessing the DEEP website for some valuable information regarding wildlife.

Elections – Nominations were put forth for Chairmen. Julie nominated Ann, seconded by Colette. The vote was unanimous: 8.0.0

Colette nominated Nigel for Vice-Chair, seconded by Julie. Passed unanimously: 8.0.0

Tammy nominated Colette as Secretary, seconded by Brad. Passed unanimously: 8.0.0

Miscellaneous

Conversation gravitated to the iron leachate stream that was noticed some years ago that percolated into the landfill area. It was mitigated by placing an underground pipe to stream the iron leachate into the Farmington. It was researched in detail and is neither injurious to fish life nor the water.

Ann thought that the FDA revised the agricultural water rules for watering fields. She will further investigate.

Julie mentioned the HVAC system proposed at the town's Montessori School on was rejected; the replacement needs to be "greener."

Lea suggested hosting a Sustainability Fair.

Brad moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m., seconded by Lea.

Respectively submitted,

Colette Yeich,
Secretary