

Windsor Conservation Commission
May 31, 2022 Draft Minutes

Present: A. Adams (recorded minutes), L. Chayes, T. Young, N. Pepin, B. Robinson, A. Beaudin; ex officio C. Thompson

Absent: C. Yeich, J. Henry, S. LeGendre

Old Business

Invasive Species Forum – Thursday Zoom session at 7:00 PM; Sunday River Walk at 1:00 PM. Ayse shared announcement on Facebook (personal page and two town groups), others shared via email.

Virtual Composting Forum with Garden Club with Dr. Li's from CT Agricultural Research Station at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Ann will e-mail announcement to be shared via email and social media.

Remaining Budget - Conservation Commission t-shirts are in and may be picked up at the Planning Dept. at Town Hall, 3rd floor by Sunday (to wear before Invasive Species Walk).

Brownfields forum planned by DEEP on June 2nd or 5nd (confusion over date). May have been changed, but contact person is on vacation.

E-Cycle – Either Saturday, 9/17 or Sunday, 9/18 (there is confusion on the date) from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Ann will clarify with E-Cycle, but usually, the event was held on a Saturday.

Town Green events - the WCC did not have a presence at the Shad Derby this year, but Ayse sat at the Northwest Park booth for a few hours and reported on how they were mainly promoting Camp for the Summer.

Climate Change Awareness – forum with Sunrise Movement Climate Change Awareness; Tentative forum in September or later in the year, in person, if possible. Ann will clarify the date.

Windsor Conservation Articles -

-Tammy - writing a case study on her geothermal system - will e-mail Commission for review when completed.

-Nigel - Flooding - holding off until Summer when hurricane season starts since flooding was not much of an issue this Spring. Chloe said that late June/early July would be a good time.

-Articles will be sent to Windsor Journal, Journal Inquirer (if they are interested) and Chamber of Commerce.

Other possible articles:

-Nigel suggested drought resistant plants, which was discussed a while ago, per Ann. Brad said this was a worthwhile idea and that resources on native alternatives are available on the Invasive Plants Working Group website. Brad provides links to information in his invasive plant

forum coming up. Chloe will post the PowerPoint on the Commission webpage.

-Ann - Why trees matter to address community fears of trees coming down due to bad weather

-Lea - microbeads, energy efficient home cooling methods

Tammy briefly spoke on how her geothermal cooling and heating system works, for example CT State Law states that they must be at least 50 feet away from septic systems. Lisa Bress on Town Council may be a contact person about promoting these systems more in town. Tammy will write an introductory letter to Lisa and share her experiences as a homeowner and employee of the geothermal company. Ann cautioned about it seeming like the company would benefit financially. Brad suggested that Tammy just draft a letter to Town Council on behalf of the Conservation Commission. She will send a draft of the letter out to the Commission for review. Lea asked about the company (Dandelion) having a booth at the Sustainability Fair in October.

FY 22 remaining budget (spent) and begin thinking of upcoming FY 23 budget.

Farmland preservation and conservation

Recognition Awards - Ann will deliver

New Business

Nigel presented a *crowd sourcing program through Crowd Hydrology* that places an enamel ruler in waterways to gauge depth (\$50 for 3 foot measuring guage), possibly Northwest Park, but may work better at Mill Brook Open Space (if conditions of grant allows). Community members can text in measurements that they saw and the website keeps track of the data. There are currently no monitoring sites in Connecticut, so we would be the first. There was a discussion over the mounting construction that would be required.

Water Chestnut infestation at Addison Corporate Center - Chloe is still trying to find out who owns or manages the property to send a letter to. She will draft a letter notifying them of the problem and its severity without placing blame.

Engaging the Public in Conservation - the feasibility of Nigel's Crowd Hydrology idea was discussed further.

Motion to Adjourn by Brad, seconded by Nige - The official start and end times of the meeting were not recorded (the meeting was 49 minutes long).

Respectfully submitted,

Ayse Adams, in lieu of Secretary.