

Windsor Conservation Commission
February 28, 2022 Draft Minutes

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

Absent: C. Yeich, N. Pepin, S. LeGendre

The meeting took place Virtually over Zoom and was called to order by chair, Ann Beaudin at 7:05 PM.

Public Communications: 1 phone-in anonymous attendee, no communications.

Old Business:

Meeting Minutes from the Jan. 31, 2023 meeting were approved (motion made by Lea, seconded by Tammy)

Wildlife habitats: Brad suggested that a link be added to the WCC website to DEEP with information about increased frequency of bear and coyote sightings in yards. Chloe will add link if one is sent to her. Tammy also suggested adding a few lines explaining that the increase in sightings is due to encroachment into animal habitat and for more information people may visit the DEEP website. Ann suggested an interview on Win-TV with a wildlife expert. Brad said that DEEP has people who can do this.

Groundwater & run-off and water & air quality: Questions were raised at previous meetings with suggestions to label catch basins that water drains into waterways. Brad said that cyanobacterial blooms are a yearly occurrence across CT and are not just a local problem. Landfills along watersheds are a great contributor in the area. The question was asked whether planting more trees along these corridors might help mitigate leachate and non-point source pollution. The town should try to maintain more open green spaces and less development along waterways to encourage this. Chloe suggested that Commission Members read the Farmington River Watershed Association's website since they have already applied for grants to study Rainbow Reservoir. The WCC should work to build off what the Watershed Association has already done.

Preserving open space: There is a property on Prospect Hill for sale, all forested, with a small wetlands area within, and surrounded by farmland and housing. The round shape of the parcel is good for wildlife. It had previously been approved for subdivision. The Town is looking into acquiring it for open space preservation. Wetlands parcels are on a lower priority because they already have wetlands restrictions to protect them. The Town was recently approved for a \$35,000 grant from the Connecticut Urban Forestry Council through DEEP.

New Business:

Climate change panel forum is scheduled for 4/26 from 6:45 – 8:00 PM) at the Broad St. Library. WCC members should plan to arrive by 6:30 to help set up. Ann will write up an announcement of the event to send to Chloe, along with a schedule, presenters, topic, and photos, if available. The Town Public Relations Team will produce flyers and social media posts with the official Town Seal.

Wonder of Windsor (WoW contest): Name for contest previously suggested by Tammy: “Windsor Blossoming into Spring.” Official rules need to be written for the photo and video-based (Facebook/Instagram Reels) contest. Captions should be provided and submissions should be limited to promote natural settings of town, not man-made structures, such as buildings. Photos should be natural and not use filters or editing other than cropping of images. Chloe suggested that it be modeled after a similar contest for a dog-oriented group in Town that has been done previously. Members discussed whether it would be better for them to serve as judges or to have an independent panel, such as Town Councilmembers or other people within the community. Decided on three prize levels and members discussed whether to solicit donations of gift certificates from local businesses as prizes or to use WCC funds to purchase them. The upcoming Windsor Sustainability Fair on 4/29 (1:00 – 4:00 PM, rain date 4/30) would be a good way to either launch the contest, or to announce winners.

E-Cycle electronics recycling event: The next event has been scheduled for 9/9 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Textile Recycling: This was a discussion about recycling textiles, such as clothes that are no longer in usable condition. Lea spoke that the current trailer at the transfer station is owned by Bay State Recycling out of MA. She found out that they wash and recycle the items into other products. The suggestion was made to add bins to school or church parking lots to encourage donations. The Archer St. AME Church or Stop & Shop were mentioned as possible locations, as they already have clothing recycling bins. Chloe said that on April 22nd, Big Brothers & Big Sisters is hosting a clothing and textile donation drive in the Town Hall Parking lot (flyer to be released soon).

Monarch Festival: Concern that it only commemorates one species of pollinator, neglecting others, but it was discussed that garden areas encouraging monarchs also included other species besides monarch host-plants that would encourage other species as well. Discussed recent news article about planting wildflowers along the I-91 corridor in Windsor near Exit 38 commuter parking lot. Ayse emailed the members a link to the Hartford Courant article.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws: Ann suggested that these were worth looking into and Ayse emailed the members a link listing CT’s EPR laws on CT.gov.

Food scraps recycling program: Tammy said that only 100 people have signed up so far to receive a free food scrap basket for composting. For \$20 Blue Earth will pick up scraps and return it as compost, but their services are limited to certain areas of town.

Lea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32PM, seconded by Julie.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayse Adams