

Windsor Conservation Commission
Town Hall Council Chambers
April 25, 2023
Draft Minutes

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

Absent: S. Legendre

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Lea motioned to accept the February 28th minutes, seconded by Chair Ann. Accepted unanimously - 7.0.0.

Julie Bergeron was introduced as a potential new member.

Old Business:

-Climate Change forum hosted by CC at the Windsor Library. Arrival time for members – 6:45. The panel will be made up of members from the Sunrise Movement. This will be an exchange between the audience and the speakers. It is expected that every effort should be made to spread the word. Lea and Colette distributed flyers throughout town and announcements were placed on social media.

Lea suggested, as a future consideration, that perhaps we should invite the mayor to lead the panel.

-WOW photo contest. The contest will be deferred to the fall - “Falling into Autumn” is to be kicked off in September. Chloe will ask the town’s graphic designer for input on contest rules. Ann will research her files for previous contest specifics. (Emphasis should be placed on no photo manipulation) Google, Facebook, Town of Windsor’s official website will be used for advertising purposes. Community voting should be considered. Two divisions – Students and Adults; first prize and honorable mention. Prizes need to be solicited. Supermarkets? Bowling Alley? Private tour of Millbrook by Commissioner Brad? Restaurants? All contest rules and promotional materials should be ready to go for the September meeting.

-Ann inquired about the remaining natural resources in Windsor. Brad suggested DEEP’s website under state owned land as a start. Chloe suggested accessing the GIS system.

There is a distinction between open space and undeveloped land. Undeveloped land is privately owned. Undeveloped land can be purchased by the town and designated as open space by the town. Chloe reviewed the “fee in lieu of open space” option for developers.

“Secret Life of Trees” on the WWW and “Finding the Mother Tree” were mentioned as two items worth watching/reading/looking into.

New Business:

There was a brief discussion as to whether elimination of bittersweet and poison ivy at Millbrook could be budgeted for the spring. The spotted lantern fly, a pest that eats trees, was also mentioned.

Chair Ann suggested writing an article promoting local farms – Colette suggested adding community garden locations to the article (i.e. Northwest Park and Keney Park).

-Commissioner Lea motioned that we use the CC budget to obtain a sandwich board large enough to be visible on the town green; seconded by Commissioner Tammy. Voted unanimously – 7.0.0. Chloe will explore pricing and sizes available.

-Colette inquired about sponsoring a clean up day due to the excessive amount of litter on our town roads.

-Lea would like the commission to investigate having compost bins and water bins available for public purchase.

-Colette has a potential new member for the commission – Joe Zepperi.

Public Communications: Town resident, Tim Tomcho presented his concern for outdoor fire pit burning of rubbish (sometimes unattended) and other potential environmentally harmful materials. He has been dealing with this issue in his neighborhood on Winthrop Road for quite some time and has asked for assistance from the police as well as the fire department. The issue has not been solved and he continues to have difficulty with the odors and spewing smoke emitting from the fire pit. His request is that the commission review the current “Outdoor fires” ordinance and suggest alterations to the “exceptions” in reference to burning materials that create a potentially hazardous environment for neighborhoods and air quality. The ordinance clearly states that recreational outdoor fires burn clean, dry hardwood.....which he feels is being violated by his neighbor. Commission members could not respond but will address this at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich, Secretary