

Windsor Conservation Commission

June 27, 2023 Draft Minutes

Town Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: A. Adams, A. Beaudin, L. Chayes, T. Young, C. Yeich; ex officio, C. Thompson

Absent: J. Henry, B. Robinson

Public Communications:

Resident Tom Tomcho thanked the commission for taking his concern regarding outdoor fires seriously and addressing the issue. He reported that his neighbor has pretty much complied with the town ordinance, however he felt that the “outdoor fire” section of the ordinance should still be reviewed.

Business Meeting

-Lea motioned to accept the May 30th minutes, seconded by Tammy; accepted unanimously 5.0.0.

Old Business

WOW photo contest

-Suggestions were made to alter the mock-up poster – use different color that will pop, larger and additional fall photos and, under Contest Details, change wording from “The public is invited” to “Windsor residents are invited to vote.” Discussion ensued on how to confine the voting to town residents only. It was suggested that voting in Google form rather than Facebook might be more favorable. Chloe will email the poster with suggested changes to the members.

New Business

Town Fire Marshal, Laurie Volkert addressed the commission via Zoom regarding the Ordinance on outdoor fires. She said that several years ago the department went through a repeal and replace ordinance with the Town Council. The commission asked questions on how complaints are handled and enforced; the relationship between Windsor’s and State regulations; if permits were required as in other towns; if any public outreach is being done; if fines were issued for violations, if backyard fireworks were being dealt with, to name a few. An overview of the ordinance was presented, and all questions and concerns were addressed professionally. The Fire Department does not enforce the ordinance, the police are responsible. Ms. Volkert encouraged the members to call her with any additional questions or concerns.

Greenhouse Gases

Chair Ann reported that as a state we are very slow in reducing our carbon footprint – only 25% below what it was in 2021. In some areas, farmlands are being preserved for carbon storage. The challenge is how to prevent excessive greenhouse gas emissions. Chair Ann challenged the members to think of ways the public can help. Lea suggested several mitigation efforts. If the

subject were brought to the forefront and attacked on a town-by-town basis, it could lead to public outcry which could eventually lead to advancing bills in the legislature. Lea suggested that we engage science writer and TV personality, David Pogue in a Webinar (as was done by Bloomfield) on the topic of *How to Deal with Climate Change*. Colette suggested that it be hosted by one of our legislators. Lea will investigate the possibility.

-Chloe reported on **rain barrels** from a company in North Carolina. There are several issues to consider: i.e., cost per, shipping, demand, storage, preorder procedure.

-June is **Pollinator Month** – send thoughts to Chair Ann on the importance of birds, insects, bats, butterflies, etc. and she will compose a news article.

The expanse of lawns on some of these corporations on Day Hill Road and Pigeon Hill may consider planting native gardens to attract pollinators and reduce their use of herbicides. Chair Ann will draft a letter to corporate heads regarding the above – send her your thoughts on this topic.

-**Signs** – Chloe presented options on lawn signs to promote the commission's programs. Tammy motioned to purchase an A-frame, two-sided sign, on rollers for \$280; seconded by Ann; approved unanimously 5.0.0.

-A virtual meeting will be scheduled for the end of August to finalize the E-Cycle (Sept 9, from 9-12) and WOW contest plans.

Lea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20, seconded by Colette.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich, Secretary