

Windsor Conservation Commission

November 28, 2023

Draft Minutes

Windsor Council Chambers

Present: A. Adams, J. Bergeron, B. Robinson, T. Young, C. Yeich; ex officio, C. Thompson

Absent: A. Beaudin, L. Chayes, J. Henry, S. LeGendre

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Tammy at 7:04 p.m.

--Tammy began by relaying a message for Chair Ann, who was unable to attend and wanted to apologize for her absence and wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

-Future member, Joe Zipperi was introduced to the group.

Old Business:

Brad motioned to approve the minutes from October 30th, seconded by Julie B.; approved unanimously 5.0.0

WOW Contest – Chloe reported that there were 27 submissions. She also mentioned the time consumed in the administrative aspect of the contest. Ayse pointed out that it was difficult to find the winning entries on the town's website; Chloe reported recent computer problems. The winning entries were also placed on the town's Facebook page. Chloe suggested several changes, one of which was acquiring and publishing the prizes prior to the contest as an added incentive to draw more participants. Chloe also noted the time-consuming task of eliminating duplicate votes. Tammy will contact Chair Ann to have this written up in the Windsor Journal accompanied by the winning photos. Any article written by members needs to be reviewed by Chloe prior to publication.

New Business:

Littering – Ayse mentioned that the town receives the five-cent deposit money from the "nips" bottles when sold over the counter. The five-cent deposit goes to the state; subsequently, state reimburses the towns. \$30,000 has been allocated for aid in nip's bottles clean up. The town is organizing a program. Julie suggested a nip art project to bring attention to the litter issue.

Clean Water Act - Seeks to restore protection after Supreme Court reduced safeguards for waterways and wetlands leaving them open to pollution and destruction. The WOTUS (Waters of the US) definition was changed as a result of the Supreme Court ruling, removing the part of the definition of wetlands having a "significant nexus" to "Navigable" waters (defined as a waterway where an 8" log may float freely). This means that these areas are no longer under the jurisdiction of the EPA (Army Corps of Engineers), but remain regulated by local regulatory bodies, such as Windsor's Inlands, Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. This will put pressure on the state and local municipalities to become more involved in the decision-making process.

CACIWC – Tammy attended the annual conference and reported that the Keynote speaker addressed Climate Change, which is a reality - more intense storms, more flooding, more inclement weather patterns and that the towns should have a plan for how to deal with this reality. 100 yr. floods now occur every 25 yrs.

-Grants are available for environmental programs in terms of resources, consultations, assistance via Sustainablelect.com.

Hydroponics – Ayse attended a presentation at the Garden Club given by *Levo International*, a non-profit organization. They have established programs as far as Haiti and as close as Hartford, introducing hydroponic gardening systems. Limited space is needed; mini gardens can be placed wherever there is a sunny spot. An efficient and clean way to grow produce. Ayse would like the commission to consider offering a program in hydroponics as an effort to increase visibility, sustainability, and to educate the public. Members agreed and Ayse will investigate additional information on program choices, cost, and proper timing.

Bird House Project – Julie B. requested that the DPW install the colorful, birdhouses, handmade by her friend, on the walking trail in Meadows State Park. Chloe suggested that she submit a proposal. The birdhouses will be on display at the Library in January. The crafter is amenable to an interview and write up in the Journal.

FYI – EMAILS, TEXTS, CONVERSATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, BUT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO OLD BUSINESS. ADDRESSING NEW BUSINESS TOPICS ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE FOI ACT AND CONSIDERED EXPARTATE AND ARE NOT ENTERED INTO THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Brad motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55, seconded by Ayse.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich, Secretary