

Windsor Conservation Commission
3.26.2024 Draft Minutes
Hybrid Meeting

Present: J. Bergeron, L. Chayes, S. Legendre, B. Robinson, T. Tomcho, C. Yeich, T. Young, J. Zepperi; ex officio, C. Thompson

Absent: A. Adams, A. Beaudin, J. Henry

Co-Chair Young called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Business Meeting

Lea motioned to accept the February 27th minutes, seconded by Brad. Passed unanimously 8.0.0

Old Business

Rain/Compost barrels – Lea checked with Ace Hardware and Lowes for availability and pricing. She distributed product flyers from Enviro World in Canada – compost bins listed @ \$60; rain barrels @ \$70. If ordered in bulk the cost per item would be reduced. (Less than ordering on Amazon.) Ocean State has been advertising 53 gal. rain barrels for 69.99 made by Lostronaut. Lea will continue with her research and hopefully conclude this at the next meeting.

As an aside, Chloe cautioned the members regarding handouts – they are to be submitted to her several days prior to the next meeting in order to be viewed by meeting Zoomers as well as attendees – inclusive to all.

Birdhouse Project – Julie has been in touch with the *Rise Up* organization regarding price of erecting the birdhouses - a quote will be forthcoming soon.

Hydroponics Forum – the forum, which was originally scheduled for this evening, was postponed due to Nevo staffing changes. It will be rescheduled for the end of April. Press releases will be written and submitted; notices placed online within the next two weeks. Colette suggested that “Any space with natural light: condo, home, apartment, dorm room, classroom, office” be included in the advertisement/article/flyer/electronic media. Integrating Chair Ann’s article into the newly written notice was suggested. Library and Chamber programs will be checked prior to anchoring a date in order to avoid duplication.

Position on Nips – Bill #5215 “An act concerning municipal authority to prohibit the sale of nips.” Due to the short legislative session, this will probably be postponed until the next session. Tim proposed that the Conservation Commission draft our position supporting the bill. He is willing to communicate with Conservation Commissions from other towns to seek input and perhaps eventually take a collective position on the proposed Nips bill. Tim would also like to seek direction from the town gurus regarding the process of a commission addressing legislative issues/bills. Chloe will meet with the Town Manager for answers. Tim will draft a letter for review supporting the proposed legislation.

-Chloe mentioned that the mayor has taken an interest in tackling the litter problem in town.

The Pacific Garbage Patch (the size of two Texas states) was mentioned. Compiling a statewide conservation contact directory was suggested. Tammy will consult with Ann.

Education and Outreach – Earth Day is approaching. A drawing contest and placing the results in a public place and creating conservation lessons for public schools were mentioned. Brad said that CT Forest and Parks Association has a curriculum focusing on outdoor education. The Learning Tree and No Child Left Behind were also raised. Sherwin suggested that the Hydroponics workshop be recorded to perhaps show in classrooms in the future.

New Business

– upcoming publications – Lea will continue working on Climate Action. She is still interested in having David Pogue from Nano Plastics as a presenter on climate action.

-Chloe encouraged writing articles to keep the CC name in the public eye. Tim volunteered to write an article post Hydroponics workshop.

-Attention getting statement “Protecting the planet for future generations” should preface articles. “Kid Friendly” is another suggestion.

-Chloe is gathering information on this year’s CC accomplishments for a report presented to the Town Council annually. Please email her ASAP with your suggestions. Chair Ann will be apprised of this.

-April 20th (10-1) is the Textile Recycling date that Heart Springs is sponsoring. The collection will be set up in the Town Hall parking lot.

-Colette reported that she submitted an application for the new town Adopt A Spot program at the beginning of the month, but has not received a response. She will pursue it.

-Sherwin reported that if an individual calls the DOT directly and complains about the trash on exits 34, 35, 37 & 38, they will schedule a cleanup. He will provide members with the phone number.

Brad motioned to adjourn at 8:05, seconded by Lea.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich, Secretary