

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017  
TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Jodee Heritage and Carrie Collins-White and Jackie Sima; Doug Noble (arriving at 7:03 pm) and Matt Abdifar (arriving at 7:10 pm).

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Ms. Heritage called the roll.

Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Jodee Heritage, Carrie Collins-White and Jackie Sima; Doug Noble (arriving at 7:03 pm) and Matt Abdifar (arriving at 7:10 pm).

**III. Determination of Quorum**

There were enough members present for a quorum.

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

**V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 8, 2017**

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2017 regular meeting; no corrections were noted.

Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Ms. Sima. Motion approved 5-0-1 with Ms. Collins-White abstaining.

**VI. Communications**

1. The Habitat CACIWC Newsletter, Winter 2017, volume 29, number 1  
(To be handed out at the meeting)

This communication was handed out at tonight's meeting. Ms. Simone noted that issues of The Habitat are a season behind in distribution.

**VII. Calendar – Events**

The following calendar of events was reviewed:

**1. National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 30**

Chairman Sherman noted this item would be discussed later on in the agenda.

There was a brief discussion about the date for the fall festival. It was noted that the event date should become set in June.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

**1. Summary of town wide cleanup**

Mr. Noble explained that he received cleanup supplies - bags and gloves from Bob Ceccolini from the Parks and Recreation Department. He suggested a Commission sponsored effort be scheduled for a date in the fall.

Mr. Noble provided Commission members with a summary of the town wide cleanup event he and a group of Quinnipiac University students undertook in the spring.

Mr. Noble explained that students were excited to participate in cleanup efforts on the Farmington Canal. He said that the group cleaned up the newly opened section of Farmington Canal.

Mr. Noble mentioned that there was larger debris items located in the canal.

Ms. Simone stated that the state has been notified so those items can be cleaned up.

The Commission agreed to continue discussion regarding setting up a cleanup date for a town open space property; possibly to take place in fall 2017.

**IX. New Business**

**1. Summary of Planning Dept and Library Spring Programs**

Ms. Simone provided Commission members with a summary of the Planning Department and Library Spring Programs.

Ms. Simone explained there were five programs offered and 200 people attended the programs.

Ms. Simone informed Commission members that the *Basics of Backyard Beekeeping* program was the most popular program. She went on to explain that open space maps and information were program to program participants.

Commission members talked in brief about the programs.

## 2. Summary of Trails Day DeDominicis Hike

Chairman Sherman provided a summary of the June 3 Trails Day DeDominicis Hike.

Chairman Sherman explained that he and Cheshire Land Trust's Karen Schnitzer helped with the hike attended by 10-11 people. He said they walked over two miles along the red and yellow trails and bird watched.

Chairman Sherman said he and Ms. Schnitzer pre-walked that site so they knew the route to follow; he said that folks who attended were pleased to be there.

Chairman Sherman noted that Mr. Noble and Mr. Abdifar also helped out.

Ms. Simone said people were asked to sign in for the hike; the majority of the people in attendance were from Cheshire; and that there were more single people than families in attendance.

## 3. Other

- a. Chairman Sherman talked about what and where the Commission can host an event for National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 30, 2017. He asked if there was a property that needs a cleanup.

Ms. Simone stated a cleanup was a good idea.

Ms. Simone explained that there was not just one site that needed a full day cleanup but there were a few sites that could use a few hours of clean up.

Commission members talked about the suggestion of cleaning up a portion of the Linear Trail and past cleanup efforts on open spaces.

Ms. Heritage talked about getting students in need of community service hours from Cheshire Academy to help with the cleanup.

Mr. Noble commented that it took the Quinnipiac students he worked with only a few hours to clean up an area of the canal.

Ms. Simone said there was a cleanup and partial trail marking work done at the DeDominicis property – noting the red trail still need more work.

The Commission agreed to hold cleanup effort events on National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 30, 2017. They would confirm the details of the efforts at a future meeting.

#### **b. Commission Goals**

Ms. Collins-White asked if a new item can be added to the agenda – Goals. She said at a previous meeting, members set project goals but the items are no longer on the agenda.

Chairman Sherman explained that last time people weren't present to speak about the projects.

Ms. Collins-White wanted to know if it was the responsibility of the group to work (on the projects) or the individual.

Chairman Sherman explained that Commission members can work with other Commission members on projects.

#### **c. Fall Events**

Ms. Heritage talked about advertising the idea of taking a selfie (at an open space location) and having it available at the fall festival market place. She also talked about how to get more people involved in projects.

Ms. Collins-White agreed to work with Ms. Heritage on a plan.

Ms. Sima mentioned sticking with the cleanup effort for the fall.

Mr. Noble explained that 10:00 am to 12:30 pm time frame worked for the cleanup effort he sponsored.

Ms. Simone said she could coordinate getting town equipment for a cleanup; she asked Mr. Noble to provide a list of needed items; she also noted she can look into removing invasive species (during cleanup efforts).

- d. Mr. Noble asked about planting and bench locations along the Linear Trail. He said that he noticed a tree planted very close to the trail (that may impact the path way); and if there was a provision as to where trees can be planted.

Chairman Sherman said he would take a photo of the planting in question can send it to Ms. Simone.

Ms. Simone agreed to look into this matter and report back.

e. **Summer Meetings**

Commission members discussed their meeting attendance over the summer. Several members mentioned they will not be able to attend the July and/or August meetings.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

X. **Adjournment**

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Moved by Mr. Abdifar. Seconded by Ms. Collins-White. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carla Mills  
Recording Secretary