

**TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017
TOWN HALL Room 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylde, Jodee Heritage, Jackie Sima and Doug Noble (at 7:03).

Member not present was: Matt Abdifar.

Guest: Ron Gagliardi.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Heritage called the roll.

Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylde, Jodee Heritage, Jackie Sima and Doug Noble (at 7:03 pm).

Member not present, Matt Abdifar.

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 – September 13, 2017

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2017 regular meeting with no corrections.

Moved by Ms. Sima. Seconded by Ms. Heritage. Motion approved 3-0-1 with Ms. Collins-White abstaining.

V. Communications

1. The Habitat CACIWC Newsletter, Summer 2017, volume 29, number 2
(To be handed out at the meeting)

Ms. Simone handed out copies The Habitat. She informed Commission members that in general there's always something interesting in the newsletters.

VI. Calendar – Events

Chairman Sherman reviewed the following calendar of events items:

1. Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K- Saturday, October 28, 2017

Chairman Sherman noted the Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K would be held on Saturday October 28.

VII. Unfinished Business

1. Recap of the Fall Festival

Chairman Sherman provided Commission members a recap of the fall festival. He said that Mr. Noble and Mr. Abdifar dedicated time at the Commission's booth.

Chairman Sherman passed out a few photographs of the booth. He explained that the booth was set up from 10:30 am to about 4:30 pm; and a good number of people visited the booth.

Mr. Noble followed up by saying that they had a decent turnout and it was a good event and visitors asked about the town's open space properties.

Chairman Sherman said that all the bags they had were given out (open space maps were also available at the booth).

Ms. Simone said they have more bags in stock (for a future event).

There was general discussion about the festival.

2. Commissioner Projects

- a. Chairman Sherman suggested that removal of invasive species (vegetative) be a future project.**
- b. The Commission discussed an entrance to the DeDominicis property on Fenn Road may be a possible future project.**

Ms. Simone explained the town owns 8 acres of land at the DeDominicis site.

Ms. Collins-White said the Fenn Road property is currently privately owned.

Ms. Simone said there's currently no direct access on the Fenn Road side (for access).

Mr. Noble said he recently visited the DeDominicis site and walked the red and orange trails; he said that at one point the trail marking end and it gets confusing (which direction to go in) because the entire trail is not marked.

Ms. Simone explained that there's a proposal for the Eagle Scout project to mark the remaining portion of the trails on the DeDominicis site.

- c. Chairman Sherman informed members that the Hike Cheshire project was promoted at the fall festival; people were encouraged to participate by sending in photos.**

Ms. Heritage said no photos have been submitted yet. She asked about Commission funds to purchase give-a-ways for winners of the contest.

Ms. Simone explained to Commission members that all accounts have been frozen so no funds would be available to purchase give-a-ways or for conference attendance.

Ms. Simone explained for this reason the Hike Cheshire photo contest is currently not being promoted on social media.

Ms. Collins-White suggested they just encourage people to upload their photos.

Ms. Simone said they could just ask people for photos for the town website; they could send in their photos of outdoor locations in Cheshire (with the understanding the photos would be seen by the public).

There was discussion about the photo contest and just asking people to submit photos for the town website.

Ms. Heritage suggested tabling discussion on the give-a-ways until they get photo submissions.

Mr. Noble informed Commission members the state is making progress on the linear trail (new section).

Ms. Simone explained they will be getting new trail maps; the last mapping was done by Milone and MacBroom in 1999; she said the new maps show the distances between points and call boxes are now shown on the maps.

Mr. Noble said there are also trail maps that show the trail from Massachusetts to New Haven; he would see about getting maps for the Commission.

There was some discussion about the new maps and possible grant funds for projects.

Ms. Heritage said if there are grants available that Ms. Simone finds out about that she should let the Commission know; saying maybe she and other Commission members with grant writing experience could help apply for grant funds.

Ms. Collins-White commented about signs on the linear trail warning people about bears.

Ms. Simone explained there were some bear sightings - the signs are for general awareness that bears maybe be in the area.

3. Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K- Saturday, October 28, 2017

Chairman Sherman explained the Commission has been invited to set up a booth at the event on October 28.

Ms. Sima said she might be able to help.

Chairman Sherman said he'd get more details about the event; he said they would provide the same set up as they did for the fall festival.

Ms. Simone said she could get all the maps and other items together and she could connect with Ms. Sima so she could pick up the items.

VIII. New Business

There were no new business items.

Mr. DeVlyder asked about the the parcel of land in Wolcott adjacent to the Yankee Expressway Highlands open space property; he said he looked at the property and wanted to know about parking access instead of what is currently being proposed.

Ms. Simone explained that the proposal is to have a parking lot right along the road where the site is level and at a point where people could pick up the trail at a low point.

Mr. DeVlyder said, in his opinion, they should look at the other piece of property for a parking lot.

Ms. Simone explained that to look at another property location for a parking lot, the area would have to be surveyed. She reminded the Commission that all accounts are frozen so no funding would be available.

Ms. Simone explained to Mr. DeVlyder and the Commission that there are not yet funds approved for the project; that the open space maintenance plan is still under review and nothing can move forward until that's done.

Mr. DeVlyder said, in his opinion, he wanted the lollipop street access looked at and that he didn't think parking on the state road would be approved by Wolcott; he commented that he wanted to look at another parking lot option; he wanted the traffic leads looked at for parking; he asked that this item be added to the agenda.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2017.

IX. Adjournment

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

**Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Ms. Sima. Motion approved
unanimously by Commission members present.**

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**