

**TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019
CHEHSIRE TOWN HALL – ROOM 115 – 7:00 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Abbott called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

II. Roll Call

Mr. Santoro called the roll. Members present were Corrine Abbott, Bob DeVlyder, Thomas Hickey, Robert Santoro and Matt Abdifar (at 7:18 pm).

Staff: Suzanne Simone.

III. Determination of Quorum

Chairman Abbott determined there were enough members present for a quorum.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 9, 2019

The approved of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

VI. Communications

There were no communications.

VII. Calendar: 2019 Environment Dates for Potential Commission Participation

a. September Date (TBD): Cheshire Fall Festival

Ms. Simone informed members about the Cheshire Fall Festival process and how in past years they've shared a booth with another commission; the festival is usually the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in September and Commission members staff the booth.

b. September 28: National Public Lands Day

Ms. Simone provided an overview of the Commission's participation in previous National Public Lands Day's events. She explained about volunteer opportunities for the public (and the Commission members) to participate in, including trail marking and trail restoration/clean ups. She said in the past, Mr. Abdifar had connected with high school groups to do projects.

The National Public Lands Day events have been publicized online, posted in the town hall, on Facebook, in newspapers, and outside groups have spread the word.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Open Space Property Review

Ms. Simone gave an Open Space Property Review presentation to Commission members that included details about several of the open space properties in Cheshire and noted where there were areas to hike; that the property names reflect the name of the property seller, that there are designed management plans for the open spaces; and that the spaces are monitored by the police department and public works departments (to report any issues on the properties).

IX. New Business

Open Space Properties: Commission Outreach

Chairman Abbott talked about the Commission doing open space property outreach and talked about ideas on how to engage the community and how to inform them of the open space opportunities available; she talked about the possibility of raising funds to use on open space projects.

Ms. Simone said she'd look into the ability to raise funds.

Commission members discussed various community outreach opportunities including creating a passbook for visiting the open spaces and award a prize for visiting all of the open spaces (maybe by holding events at the open spaces); there was also discussion about developing passive recreation type events and whys to generate interest in the properties.

Mr. Hickey, who is involved with the cub/boy scouts suggested working with the cub/boy scouts on clean up projects and that the Commission could develop a similar program to the state's "No Child Left Inside" program to encourage families/children to visit the town's open spaces.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Abbott called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm.

Moved by Mr. Santoro. Seconded by Mr. DeVylder. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**