

**ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012
TOWN HALL LUNCH/BREAK ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Robert DeVlyder (Chairman pro-tem), Jodee Heritage, Bonnie Mayer, Daniel Grasso and Bill Sherman. Town Council liaison Sylvia Nichols was also present.

Staff Liaison: Suzanne Simone.

I. Call to Order

Mr. DeVlyder called the meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Sherman called the roll.

Members in attendance at tonight's meeting were Robert DeVlyder (Chairman pro-tem), Jodee Heritage, Bonnie Mayer, Daniel Grasso and Bill Sherman. Town Council liaison Sylvia Nichols was also present.

III. Determination of Quorum

Mr. DeVlyder determined there were enough members present for a quorum.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present receipt the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes: Regular Meeting on November 9, 2011

Motion: To accept the minutes from the November 9, 2011 regular meeting with no corrections.

Moved by Daniel Grasso. Seconded by Bill Sherman. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

VI. Approval of 2012 Meeting Dates

The Commission reviewed the 2012 meeting dates.

Motion: To approve the meeting dates for 2012. The Environment Commission meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month in room 115 Cheshire Town Hall unless otherwise noted.

Moved by Daniel Grasso. Seconded by Bonnie Mayer. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

The meeting dates would be filed with the town clerk's office.

VII. Election of Officers

Mr. DeVylder opened the nominations for the election of officers.

Motion: That the slate of officers be appointed to the Cheshire Environment Commission: Randy Yale as chairman, Robert DeVylder as vice-chairman and Bill Sherman as secretary.

Nominations moved by Daniel Grasso. Seconded by Jodee Heritage. Nominations approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Motion: To close the nominations for officers.

Nominations moved by Daniel Grasso. Seconded by Jodee Heritage. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

VIII. Communications

Ms. Simone passed out at tonight's meeting copies of The Habitat.

Ms. Simone informed Commission members that she attended a presentation about Fisher Cats and native mammals to see if the presentation would be suitable for the Earth Day 2012 program.

Ms. Simone noted that due to staff issues at DEP it was difficult to get people to speak at the Earth Day events.

IX. Calendar – Events

1. Earth Day, April 22, 2012 (Sunday)

Ms. Simone reviewed with the Commission a list of Spring 2012 programs and Connecticut Trails Day Events (June 2) for the Parks bulletin; the programs were scheduled as part of Earth Day events (April).

The Commission also discussed the Earth Day Events – New Business.

2. Trails Day, June 2, 2012 (Saturday)

The Commission discussed the Connecticut Trails Day Events. Hikes of two properties have been scheduled: DeDominicis Property Hike and

Casertano Property Hike. The trails hikes will also be advertised in the CT Forest & Parks Association Trails Day brochure.

The Commission also discussed under Trails Day – New Business.

X. Unfinished Business

1. Tip of the Month

This item was deferred due to Chairman Yale's absence.

2. Open Space Property Signage/Logo design

Ms. Simone discussed open space property signage with the Commission.

Ms. Simone asked the Commission how they wanted to proceed – did they want to order individualized signs for the property or order a uniform sign that could be used at any of the open space properties.

The Commission discussed how to proceed with the ordering of the signage. It was agreed that staff should get prices for a few dozen generic signs and report the prices back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Mr. DeVlyder informed the Commission that he is no longer able to construct the kiosk for the Ten Mile Low Lands. He asked if anyone else was interested in taking over the project – or maybe even having a Boy Scout take on the project.

The Commission discussed the construction of the kiosk at the Ten Mile Lowland.

Ms. Simone informed the Commission that the construction supplies to build the kiosk have been purchase and are in an in-door storage facility. She suggested that the Commission move forward with the construction of the kiosk as soon as possible.

Mr. DeVlyder asked staff about contacting 'Call Before You Dig' when the time comes to place the kiosk in the ground.

Ms. Simone said that was a good idea and 'Call Before You Dig' can be contact when the time comes to install the kiosk.

XI. New Business

1. Potential Program; Earth Day 2012

The Commission reviewed the program listing. Programs scheduled include 'Where to Hike in Cheshire'; 'The Plight of Connective Songbird Populations'; 'Shade Gardening'; 'Container Gardening: Indoor & Out'; 'Roaring Brook Hike'; and 'Connecticut Trails Day Events – DeDominicis Property Hike and Casertano Property Hike'. The trails hikes will also be advertised in the CT Forest & Parks Association Trails Day brochure.

Ms. Simone explained that many of the events offered are of no charge to the town.

Ms. Simone explained that articles about the program offerings will be published in The Cheshire Herald, Record Journal, and The Cheshire Library website as well as in flyers and on some of the town's online website links.

Ms. Simone said that Patrick Hedden has volunteered to lead the hike of the Casertano property.

Ms. Heritage suggested that in an effort to generate interest for these events information could be sent to the schools so families could participate in the hiking events.

Ms. Nichols talked about her affiliation with the Garden Club and the possibility of having the club and the Commission work together on the trails Day events.

Mr. Sherman said the Commission members could help guide the hikes.

Ms. Simone informed the Commission that some major storm debris cleanup work needed to be done at the Ten Mile Lowland; there are many downed braches so you can't get to the location of the vernal pool.

Ms. Simone said she would be in contact with town staff regarding the timing of the cleanup efforts.

The Commission discussed the programs and ways of generating public interest for the events. They thanked staff for working on the scheduling of the programs.

2. Connecticut Trails Day; June 2nd

This item was discussed in more detail under New Business item number 1.

3. Boulder Knoll Species Inventory

Ms. Simone talked about the species inventory project. She explained that project would identify the species that are utilizing the property.

Ms. Simone went on to explain that there is a student at DEEP who will start working on the species inventory as soon as possible. She did note that there is still a lot of planning needed before the project can start.

4. Casertano Parking project

Ms. Simone reported that the proposed parking at the Casertano property will be going before the Planning Committee and that she would let members know when that meeting date will be.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. DeVlyder called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Moved by Bill Sherman. Seconded by Daniel Grasso. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary
Cheshire Environment Commission**