

CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
TOWN HALL 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2012
ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Chairman Randy Yale, Bonnie Mayer, Robert DeVlyder, Jodee Heritage, and Bill Sherman.

Member not present: Daniel Grasso.

Staff Liaison: Suzanne Simone.

I. Call to Order

Randy Yale called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Bill Sherman called the role.

Members in attendance were Randy Yale, Bonnie Mayer, Robert DeVlyder, Jodee Heritage, and Bill Sherman. Staff liaison Suzanne Simone and recording secretary Carla Mills were also in attendance.

III. Determination of Quorum

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

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 9, 2012

Motion: To accept the minutes from the May 9, 2012 regular meeting with two corrections. Page 3 change "digression" to "discretion" and page 12 change "there illegal" to 'they're illegal'.

Moved by Jodee Heritage. Seconded by Bill Sherman. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

VI. Communications

1. The Habitat, CACIWC Summer 2012 Newsletter, Volume 24, Number 2
(To be handed out at meeting)

Commission members received a copy of the Summer 2012 Newsletter.

2. CACIWC 35th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference

Ms. Simone informed members about the CACIWC's 35th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference on November 17, 2012.

Ms. Simone told Commission members that if they were interested in attending the conference to let her know before October 31, 2012 because they could receive a discount on the conference attendance fee.

Ms. Mayer said she had attendance a previous conference. She reported the conference lasted about five hours and that CACIWC put on a good program with useful information.

VII. Calendar – Events

1. Earth Day: Monday April 22, 2013

The Commission talked about the plan for Earth Day 2013.

Ms. Simone informed the Commission that the Cheshire Library likes to have the program schedule in November so they can advertise the programs in their newsletter.

The Commission talked about what type of programs they could offer this coming year.

Ms. Simone said she and the library are looking into getting speakers for topics such as moose, fisher cats or coyotes. She said that talks about larger animals draw a bigger crowd.

Mr. Sherman suggested offering a program about tree care. He said the Commission could if they could get a local tree service to offer a program about tree care maintenance.

Ms. Simone commented that the organic lawn care from a few years ago had a good turn-out.

The Commission discussed these two Earth Day ideas.

The Commission talked about having someone from the CT Agricultural Experimental Station come talk about tick awareness.

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Sherman suggested asking Dr. Ted Andreadis from the Department of Environmental Science CT Agricultural Experimental Station in New Haven to come speak about ticks.

Ms. Simone offered to do the Where to Hike in Cheshire program again this spring.

The Commission discussed all the program ideas presented and talked about promoting programs through the Parks and Recreation Department bulletin.

Ms. Simone said she would follow-up on some of the suggestions.

Mr. Yale said the Commission would have to make a decision about program offerings at the next meeting so the information could be given to the library staff by the November newsletter submission deadline.

2. Arbor Day: Friday April 26, 2013

Ms. Simone reported that the Commission did not run a program for Arbor Day last year.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Tip of the Month

Mr. Yale asked if any Commission member was interested in drafting a tip of the month for the Cheshire Herald.

Ms. Mayer said that she had previously submitted a tip of the month but did not think it was ever published.

Ms. Simone informed the Commission that the Cheshire Herald runs the tip of the month piece on a space-available basis.

No Commission member volunteered to draft a tip of the month.

Mr. Yale asked that this item be carried over to the next meeting.

2. Open Space Property Signage/Logo design

Ms. Simone shared with Commission members pictures of the open space marker posted at the DeDominicis property. She said only one marker has been posted but once the posts are installed at other locations the markers can be installed.

Ms. Simone said that twenty five markers were ordered.

The Commission reviewed the pictures of the installed marker.

Ms. Simone suggested that the painting of the posts that the open space markers are posted to would be a good project for a Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop.

Ms. Simone said the idea was to post the markers in visible locations at the open space properties.

Ms. Simone suggested the Commission members visit the DeDominicis property to view the installed marker and provide some feedback at the next meeting.

Ms. Simone passed out window decals with the open space logo on them.

Ms. Simone shared with Commission members the process it took to get the decals made.

Ms. Simone said there were decals with a clear and white background (100 of each).

The Commission talked about the open space logo decals and agreed they looked good.

There was discussion using the window decals as an open space marketing tool and that the decals could be given out at community events.

Ms. Simone said the open space logo would be added to open space page on the town website.

IX. New Business

1. Williams Property Management Plan

Ms. Simone shared with Commission members a copy of the Williams's property management plan and map.

Ms. Simone reported that the town manager wants all open space sites that don't have management plans to have management plans put into place soon.

Ms. Simone informed the Commission that on October 3, 2012 two of the management plans were reviewed and approved.

Ms. Simone said the goal was to work on preparing plans for the outstanding properties and work towards getting the plans approved.

Ms. Simone reviewed the draft details of the management plan for the Williams Property as well as the map of the property. She explained that the property consisted of 30.8 acres located in southeast Cheshire with 500 feet of frontage along the south side of Boulder Road with direct adjacency to 165.83 acres of town owned open space generally referred to as the Boulder Knoll property.

Ms. Simone reviewed with Commission members the general property description, the management goals, the permitted uses, the prohibited uses and special considerations of the property.

Ms. Simone shared with Commission members the history of copper mining on site. She also talked there being there one trail on the site now and about the management goal that includes the possibility for an accessible trail access. The current trail is not marked out.

The Commission reviewed the management goals – the goals do provide for access to the property for public use.

Mr. Yale asked if the Commission needed more time to review the management plan.

The consensus was the Commission was prepared to vote on the management plan draft.

Motion: That the Cheshire Environment Commission approves the current management plan for the Williams property.

Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Mr. Sherman. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

2. Morin Property Management Plan

Ms. Simone shared with Commission members a copy of the Morin property management plan and map.

Ms. Simone explained that the Morin property is an approximately 15.26 acre open space parcel located in southeast Cheshire on Cook Hill Road. The parcel was purchased in 2005 for \$175,000. The property is

bordered on the east and west by eight residential properties, Cook Hill Road to the south and boulder Knoll (Lassen South) to the north.

Ms. Simone explained that there is a watercourse area located along the Wallingford Road border contains steep slopes, mature forest vegetation and an unimproved trail following the unnamed watercourse from the forest to the grass meadow. The trail originates upstream in Wallingford and traverses the property through wetland soils. The trail is not conducive for connectivity to trails on neighboring open space to the north.

Ms. Simone reviewed with Commission members the management goals, the permitted uses, the prohibited uses, the forest resource management and special considerations of the property. She explained that the primary use of the property is for wetland and upland habitat conservation.

Ms. Simone talked about the invasive species on the property.

Mr. Yale asked if the plan complied with the state management plan.

Ms. Simone explained that if development was proposed on any bordering property in Cheshire, then the required notification to Wallingford would be in effect, per state statute. No development is proposed on this parcel, therefore notification to Wallingford is not required.

Ms. Simone noted that the Morin property management plan was cleared with the Park and Recreation Department.

The Commission reviewed the information handed out about the management plan. It was noted there was a minor typo edit that needed to be made under the management goals section of the plan.

Ms. Simone agreed correct the typo.

Motion: That the Cheshire Environment Commission approves the current management plan for the Morin property (with edit).

Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Mr. Sherman. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

3. Other

Mr. Sherman talked about the kiosk project and asked if the Ten Mile Low Land trail head had been cleared.

Ms. Simone had reminded the Commission that the plan was to construct the kiosk at the Ten Mile Low Land location but there was no volunteer group had any interest in participating in the project. She said there was a Boy Scout who had interest in helping out at the Casertano property. She said at this point they are still looking for a service group to take over the kiosk construction project.

Ms. Simone reported that there is still a large tree blocking the trail at the Ten Mile Low Land location. She said that the Parks and Recreation Department has a work order in to clear the area of the fallen tree but the work has yet to be done.

The Commission talked about whether or not it would be wise to move forward with a plan to install at kiosk at this location until the trail is cleared. They talked about the current site limitations and that it would not be wise to direct the public to a trail location that was not accessible.

There was discussion about the kiosk being constructed at another open space location that the public currently has access to.

Commission members talked about installing the kiosk at the Casertano property and the fact that the town is clearing an area for parking at this location. Most agreed this would be a more suitable location for the kiosk installation since the trail is accessible.

Mr. Yale suggested that Mr. Sherman contact the scout leader he knew to see of the Boy Scouts would be interested in helping with the kiosk project at the Casertano location.

Mr. Sherman said he could reach out to his scout leader contact about the kiosk project proposal and report back at the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Yale called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

The motion was moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Mr. Sherman. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Mills
Recording Secretary
Cheshire Environment Commission