

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 PM**

Members present: Bill Sherman, Matt Abdifar (arriving at 7:08 pm), Carrie Collins-White, Bob DeVylder (leaving the meeting at 7:34 pm), and Jodee Heritage.

Members not present: Dave Mercugliano and Daniel Grasso.

Staff: Suzanne Simone.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Ms. Heritage called the roll. Members in attendance were Bill Sherman, Matt Abdifar (arriving at 7:08 pm), Carrie Collins-White, Bob DeVylder, and Jodee Heritage.

III. Determination of Quorum / Commissioner Attendance Summary

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

Members not present were Dave Mercugliano and Daniel Grasso.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting of September 10, 2014

Motion: To approved the minutes of the regular meeting of September 10, 2014 with one correction; pg. 3 “Piechowskito” to “Puchalski”.

Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Mr. DeVylder. Motion approved 4-0-1 with Ms. Collins abstaining from the vote since she was not present at the September meeting.

VI. Communications

1. Town Naming Policy

Commission members received a copy of the town naming policy. Further discussion would take place under new business.

2. Dime Savings Property Map

Commission members received a copy of the property map.

VII. Calendar – Events

Earth Day, Wednesday April 22, 2015

Chairman Sherman noted Earth Day 2015 was on April 22. He suggested that this item be added to next month's agenda so the Commission could start discussing ideas for the Earth Day 2015.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Benches

Ms. Simone informed Commission members that she sent an email to Parks Director Bob Ceccolini letting him know town-owned open space properties could use benches if someone was interested in donating a bench to the town.

Ms. Simone explained that she'd get more information about fund raising opportunities for benches.

This item would be left on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

2. Publicity in Schools

Ms. Heritage informed Commission members that she provided 40 sets of brochures to Cheshire schools so the Commission could get the word out about town-owned open spaces.

Ms. Heritage explained the brochure information has been well received and that some people who accepted the brochures were not aware of the accessibility of town-owned open spaces.

3. Property Updates

Ms. Simone provided general updates of open space properties.

Ms. Collins-White asked about National Public Lands Day and why the Commission did not have an event.

Chairman Sherman informed her that the Commission opted not to hold an event this year but something can be considered for next year since they'll be time to plan for an event.

Commission members talked about having a late fall/early winter event at one of the property locations.

Commission members discussed possible dates and which property would be best suited for a late fall/early winter hike.

Ms. Simone suggested picking a date and time that suited Commission members schedules so they could staff the event. She provided some suggestions regarding which properties should be considered at this time of year.

Members agreed to hold a hike of the Ten Mile Lowlands on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

The event could be posted on Facebook and the town website.

IX. New Business

1. Town Naming Policy

Ms. Simone shared with Commission members the policy on the naming of town-owned property which included the criteria for naming, additional considerations specific to names containing geographic, natural and or historic elements, individuals or families, names of businesses, naming of interior or ancillary features and the process to follow for proposing to name a property.

Ms. Simone explained that to request to name or rename a town-owned property it needed to be initiated either by the town council in its own motion or by three separate written proposals to the town manager.

The Commission reviewed the policy and discussed some of the points outlined in the policy.

Mr. DeVlyder talked about renaming the Dime Savings Bank property to the Yankee Expressway Highlands which has significant historical value since the highway near the property was formerly known as the Yankee Expressway.

The Commission discussed Mr. DeVlyder's proposal to rename the Dime Saving Bank property. All agreed the proposed name was fitting for the property.

Ms. Heritage asked staff to investigate to see if there were any previous owners of the property that might have be tied into some historical significance before they move forward with the newly proposed name.

Ms. Simone agreed to check to see who previously owned the property and report her findings at the next meeting.

2. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2104.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**