

**TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2015
TOWN HALL ROOM 207 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Bill Sherman, Bob DeVlyder, Carrie Collins-White and Jodee Heritage.

Members not present: Matt Abdifar, Daniel Grasso and Dave Mercugliano.

Staff: Suzanne Simone.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Heritage called the roll.

Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVlyder, Carrie Collins-White and Jodee Heritage.

III. Determination of Quorum

There were enough members present for a quorum.

Commissioner Attendance Summary: Members not present at tonight's meeting were Matt Abdifar, Daniel Grasso and Dave Mercugliano.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes Regular Meeting – October 14, 2015

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2015 regular meeting.

Motion: To approved the minutes from the October 14, 2015 meeting with one correction: "Mr. Abdifar was not present at the October 14, 2015 meeting".

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

VI. Approval of 2016 Meeting Dates

Commission members reviewed the 2016 meeting dates. Meetings will take place the second Wednesday of each month at the Cheshire Town Hall.

Chairman Sherman informed members that he needed to propose a date change for the April meeting. He asked that the meeting date be changed from April 13 to April 20, 2016.

There was also discussion about changing the October meeting date from October 12 to October 19, 2016.

Motion: To approve the 2016 meeting dates. Meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month with the following exception; the April meeting will take place on April 20 and the October meeting on October 19, 2016.

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

VII. Communications

1. Naming Policy

Members received a copy of the naming policy. Members had previously received a copy of the naming policy.

2. Dime Savings Management Plan

Members received a copy of the Dime Savings Management Plan.

**3. The Habitat, CACWIC Newsletter, Fall 2015, volume 27, number 4
(To be handed out at the meeting)**

Members received a copy of the The Habitat.

VIII. Calendar – Events

1. Artsplace - Roaring Brook event April 23, 2016

Commission members discussed the April 23, 2016 Kensett event to be held at Roaring Brook.

There was discussion about the Commission partnering with the Cheshire Land Trust (in addition to Artsplace) on this event. It was

noted that the Land Trust has a long history with the Roaring Brook property.

Ms. Heritage said the Land Trust's participation was welcomed. She said she'd follow up with the Land Trust about a month before the event to make sure she'd included in the event planning.

Ms. Collins-White mentioned that Dave Mercugliano was on the Land Trust Committee.

IX. Unfinished Business

1. Dime Savings Property Naming

Chairman Sherman said the Commission would keep the Dime Savings property naming item on the agenda until the full Commission was present and could re-propose a new name for the property.

Mr. DeVylde talked about the history of the location of the Dime Savings property, the history of the highway in the general location and gave his opinion regarding the significance of the proposed name Yankee Expressway Highlands.

There was discussion regarding the planning committee's request that the Commission review the naming policy again and propose a different name that follows the property naming criteria.

Ms. Collins-White noted that the Commission needed to provide letters (three) of support for the name (to the town manager who would then forward a written proposal to the town council then to the planning committee).

Ms. Heritage made the suggestion that maybe members of the Commission would attend a town council meeting to talk to them about the renaming of the Dime Savings property.

Ms. Simone explained that the planning committee only meets when there are items on the agenda to discuss; she said she'd follow up on this item and report back to the Commission.

Chairman Sherman stated he wanted to keep this item on the agenda to get more input from Commission members.

2. Property Updates

a. Dimes Saving Property Access

Ms. Simone provided the Commission with an update regarding the Dimes Savings property access. She explained an inquiry was made to the town attorney and a title search was conducted. She explained the access road is split half and half with one half owned by the town; next steps is the need for a property survey. This item is now with the town manager.

Ms. Simone explained the road is well defined despite being abandon some time ago.

Commission members discussed the Dime Savings property access and an access pint from the abandon roadway.

Ms. Simone said the town is in discussion with the state regarding access rights.

b. Mixville Hills Access/Easement Discussions

Ms. Simone provided an update of the Mixville Hills. She explained that someone has stepped forward and there are conversations being had about getting a private property access or easement to access the Mixville Hills property. She went on to explain that town council member Tim Slocum was also involved in the discussions. Next steps would be to wait for the conversations to take place and see what the outcome is.

Mr. DeVylder provided some information regarding access to the property from an easement.

Mr. DeVylder talked about having a meeting to talk about the properties and discuss each properties status.

Ms. Heritage suggested having onsite meetings at each of the open space properties so members who are not familiar with the properties could get a better understanding of each of the properties features.

X. New Business

1. Town Hall Holiday Reception

Chairman Sherman informed Commission members about the December 16, 2015 reception at the town hall from 5- 7 pm. Members planning on attending should notify staff.

2. Reporter Re: Open Space Properties

Ms. Simone explained to Commission members that a freelance reporter from the *Record Journal* has been reporting on Cheshire's open space properties.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**