

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2016
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Carrie Collins-White, Jodee Heritage and Jackie Sima.

Staff: William Voelker, town planner.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Heritage called the roll.

Members in attendance at tonight's meeting were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Carrie Collins-White, Jodee Heritage and Jackie Sima.

**III. Determination of Quorum
Commissioner Attendance Summary**

Members not in attendance at tonight's meeting were Matt Abdifar. Douglas Noble, new member was not present.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes Regular Meeting – April 20, 2016

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2016 meeting with corrections:

Under Dime Savings Property Naming – paragraph 2 should read “and try again.”

Chairman Sherman stated he did not submit the name.

Moved by Ms. Sima. Seconded by Ms. Heritage. Motion approved 4-0-1 with Ms. Collins-White abstaining from the vote; she was not present at the April 20, 2016 meeting.

VI. Communications

1. The Habitat, CACIWA Spring 2016 Newsletter – volume 28, number 2 (handed out at the meeting)

Mr. Voelker handed out copies of The Habitat to Commission members.

VII. Calendar – Events

There were no calendar of event items.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Dime Savings Property Naming and Access

Chairman Sherman talked about access to the property. He explained that Suzanne Simone reminded him that in 2013-14 a maintenance plan was drafted and the Commission recommended the plan to the town council for approval.

There was discussion regarding status of the open space maintenance plan and the need for the town council to adopt the proposed plan; and why the plan has yet to be formally adopted.

Chairman Sherman said he would be happy to write a letter to the town council, the town manager and town planner regarding the approval of the maintenance plan.

Motion: That Chairman Sherman pen a letter to the town council (and other departments) asking them to adopt the open space maintenance plan.

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

Ms. Sima asked if the maintenance plan was just for the Dime Savings property or all the town's open spaces.

Mr. Voelker explained that town staff (including the fire and police departments) assisted in the preparation of the open space management plan (for all town owned open space properties).

Mr. Voelker explained that the town council needs to adopt the plan before the town can move forward and spend funds.

2. Roaring Brook – Kensett Event

Ms. Heritage provided the Commission with a report regarding the Kensett event. She stated that they had a good day and had 6-8 artists set up along the trail.

Ms. Heritage explained there were 20-30 people who attended the hike. She explained that she and Chairman Sherman set up the tent and the give-a-way bags were a hit.

Ms. Sima said she attended the event and it was well received by those who attended. She said attendees commented that they not know about the space (before the event).

Ms. Heritage stated it was a good community event project. She said the portraits painted by the artists were at Arts Place and the artists can chose to donate the paintings, if they decide to.

IX. New Business

1. Cheshire Fall Festival

The Commission discussed the upcoming fall festival taking place on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 11 am to 9 pm.

The Commission has a space at the festival.

Ms. Sima talked about giving out information about open spaces at the festival.

Chairman Sherman said he would be looking for Commission members to staff the event for a shift consisting of a few hours.

Ms. Collins-White commented that the Commission shares the booth with the Energy Commission (as they did in past years). She said she would be available to volunteer to staff the booth in the morning.

2. Other – Members of the Public Present Re: Bens Property

Chairman Sherman welcomed members of the public who were in attendance.

Tracey and Ken Jewitt of 920 Cornwall Avenue were present.

Laurie and Peter Wilcox of 415 Mountain Road were present.

The Jewitts and Wilcoxs explained to the Commission they were present to talk about issues taking place on the Bens property (at the end of Cornwall Avenue at Mountain Road). They commented that there are environmental issues that need to be addressed specifically regarding dumping that took place on the property; and that many environmental agencies were contacted regarding the issues.

Ms. Sima stated in her opinion they should discuss the issues and that documents (pertaining to issues) should be made part of the public record. She wanted this item discussed on the agenda because in her opinion it was important to discuss.

Chairman Sherman explained that this item is not on the Commission's agenda and the issue is currently before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. Heritage stated that the property is not part of the town owned open space.

The property in question is adjacent to the open space property.

Ms. Heritage stated in her opinion this issue should be addressed to the town council because it needs a larger audience.

Ms. Sima said she was a concerned member and wanted the issues addressed.

Chairman Sherman said this item would be added to the agenda (for the next meeting).

Ms. Collins-White asked who the Commission's town council liaison was.

Chairman Sherman stated it was Tim Slocum.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**