

Conservation Commission  
Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:31 PM  
Town Campus, Room D

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING

#### 1. Attendance

Present: Heather Crawford, Christine Bouchard, Alex Cushing

Absent: Sufia Uddin

Also Present: Town Planner Erin Mannix, Jim Nordgren

#### 2. Approval of minutes

#### 3. Chair's comments

Chair Crawford left her comments to the end of the meeting.

#### 4. Citizen Comments.

Jim Nordgren spoke about the NRI and POCD. He is a conservation consultant and works with towns on drafting such plans.

He has been listening to all the POCD update meetings and is concerned about the need for more input and about the plan having real environmental protection impacts. He also expressed his view of the need to get more input into the strategic plan and integrate the two plans.

### Old Business

#### 5. Review of April/May events: Dark Sky, Green-up Cleanup, Invasive Plant education Booth, No-Mow May

Due to lack of advance planning, the Dark Sky event did not occur but may take place focused around fireflies during the early summer.

The Green-up Cleanup event was WET, but people attended and No-Mow May signs were handed out as well. Crawford will speak with Beach and Rec about establishing a rain date for future events.

The invasive plant education booth at the NMCC plant sale was a success. Four No-Mow May signs were handed out along with 40-50 Invasive Plant Management Guides. There were numerous discussions about the vigorous growth of various vines.

There were 22 attendees at the No-Mow May presentation held on May 22 at the Scranton Memorial Library. The presentation was well received and the question and answer session was spirited. The Conservation Commission printed 60 signs; as of now 49 have been distributed. The Garden Club printed an additional 30 signs to distribute to their members.

6. POCD update and tasks

Crawford discussed her comments on the draft POCD sent to the commission and will forward them to the group. Most comments focused on the natural resources section (currently pp 11-14). The use of actionable terms (ie. expand rather than encourage) was discussed. Open space elements, including a plan and a tiered structure for the use of open space were addressed. Mannix discussed the effort to reformat the POCD from previous years, specifically weaving environmental issues with development needs to make for more interesting reading. Nordgren expressed concern for ensuring that stormwater and wastewater are addressed and referenced PA21-29 requiring regulations to protect water quality in Long Island Sound.

Crawford will forward her additional edits from tonight's discussion to Mannix by May 30.

7. Sustainable CT

Mannix noted that the deadline for submission is in August and we need to move forward with all speed. She hopes that at least one intern will be interested in assisting with data entry. There is a SustainableCT event on June 1st. Crawford hopes to attend to meet their new Summer Fellows and get some help.

**New Business**

8. Discuss and select summer interns

The commission has \$2900 from this year to spend on interns and then next year's budget. The current pay scale for interns is \$15 per hour.

Maia Minto and Breanna Colonese-DiBello are returning as interns and there are two applications from new interns. After discussion, Crawford proposed that we hire three interns for 100 hours and the fourth for 50 hours.

9. Discuss toxic trap education program suggestion

As this item was suggested by Amy THomas, who was not available for the meeting, it has been tabled to the next meeting.

**REMARKS**

10. Town Planner's Comments

Most of Mannix's comments were already addressed. There will be an IWC public hearing on the new school at their next meeting, followed by a PZC public hearing for a special exception permit

on June 15. Staffing the Land Use office is still an issue; there is still no ZEO and a consultant is working one day per week to assist.

11. Chair's comments

none

**ADJOURNMENT**

Crawford moved to adjourn. Cushing seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:52PM.