

Conservation Commission Meeting January 7, 2021

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: Eric Brower, Vice Chairman, Nancy S. Dickinson, Urling Searle, Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Laura di Bonaventura, Gary Silberberg, and Theodore H. Walworth III.

Staff present: Patricia Sesto, Director, Sarah Coccaro, Conservation Resource Manager I and Aleksandra Moch, Environmental Analyst.

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Brower.

2) Seating of Alternates: Walworth was seated for Rutherford

a) Review and approve minutes of December 3, 2020 meeting: Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried 8-0-0.

3) Review of Correspondence: no new correspondence.

4) Chairman's Report: no report

5) Ongoing projects

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below.

a) Pollinator Pathway

b) Flood elevation posts: Brower reported *Stamford Signs* will make posts and markers for the signs and help with final design.

- c) Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee
- d) Sustainable CT application: Walworth asked about the equity statement drafted for the town. Coccaro responded the statement will address lack of diversity within the local government reflecting the racial fabric of Greenwich. Once the statement is drafted with the help and support from other stakeholders, it will be adopted by the relevant governing body in town. The work is spearheaded by Coccaro and Ali Ghiorse on behalf of the Sustainability Committee. In addition, the equity statement will satisfy one of the prime requirements made by Sustainable CT program.
- e) Friends of Pinetum, Pomerance, and Tuchman: Silberberg pointed out the park needs better signage. Sesto responded Nancy Chapin has been invited to the next meeting will address commissioners' concerns. Brower asked for the status of the dam. Silberberg responded the work was completed. Sesto and Coccaro will walk the park tomorrow to check on environmental issues. Up to three commission members were invited to join them.
- f) Sachem Lane Nature Preserve: Sesto stated Coccaro is working with Parks and Recreation to establish proper uses. The neighborhood offered help in park maintenance. The park was found relatively clean considering the historical dumping. Sesto is not necessarily opposed to some use of bicycles in the park, provided damage is not occurring. Young people cycling in natural areas are more likely to become acquainted with nature in their adult lives and support conservation. It creates a good and healthy habit.

6) Education/Outreach

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below.

- a) CACIWC Conference recap: Silberberg was surprised not to see porcelain berry, highly popular in Greenwich on the listed of the top 10 invasive species. Sesto explained the list reflects the entire state not the local anomalies.
- b) Green Schools meeting
- c) Neighbors Magazine articles
- d) Thriving Earth Exchange community science project with Bruce Museum

7) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) Parks and Rec Board: Baker reported no meeting in December
- b) GRAB: Dickinson reported over 34,000 lbs. (17 tons) of food scraps were diverted from the waste stream from July 15 – December 15, 2020. Waste Free Greenwich had sold 450 food scrap collection kits.

Since August, over 21,000 lbs. of textiles were collected generating \$2,083 to be used for *Waste Wizard*. *Waste Wizard* is a search engine tool supporting recycling program.

DPW is collecting holiday string lights at Holly Hill.

diBonaventura asked for a single source of information which will direct every item to the proper recycling destination. Dickinson responded, the *Waste Wizard* once customized for Greenwich, will do the job.

Dickinson will add Brower, Walworth, and Silberberg to the email list for Waste Free Greenwich.

Sesto asked if GRAB is conducting any negotiations with local paint stores to involve them in paint recycling. The response from Dickinson was no, but Searle suggested using website *Paint Care Inc.* which finds local stores accepting old paint. Walworth stated one of them is Sherwin-Williams in Stamford.

d) Harbor Management Commission: Baker stated no meeting was conducted in December

8) Old Business: n/a

9) New Business: n/a

10) Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Next meeting is February 4, 2021

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst