

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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**Members Present: Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Jodee Heritage, Jackie Sima and Doug Noble (arriving at 7:04 pm).**

**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, Jodee Heritage, Jackie Sima and Doug Noble (at 7:04 pm).**

**III. Determination of Quorum**

**Commissioner Attendance Summary**

**Members not in attendance at tonight's meeting were Matt Abdifar and Carrie Collins-White.**

**IV. Pledge of Allegiance**

**All present recited the pledge of allegiance.**

**V. Acceptance of Minutes - Regular Meeting – September 14, 2016**

**Chairman Sherman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2016 meeting (no corrections noted).**

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

**VI. Communications**

**1. Recycling Letter to the Editor**

Chairman Sherman updated members on the letter he drafted and submitted to the editor of the *Cheshire Herald* regarding recycling.

This item would be taken up under new business.

**2. CACIWC Fall 2016 Flyer (handed out at tonight's meeting)**

Commission members received a copy of the CACIWC Fall 2016 Flyer.

**VII. Calendar – Events**

There were no new calendar of event items discussed.

Chairman Sherman invited Ms. Simone to report on upcoming events at future meetings.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

**1. Recap of National Public Lands Day**

Ms. Simone provided a recap of the 2016 National Public Lands Day bird walk event at Boulder Knoll Farm. She reported that despite the small participant turnout (it had rained), those who attended enjoyed the event.

Ms. Simone said the bird walk was well done by the woman from the Audubon Society.

Chairman Sherman explained he also attended the walk and thought the woman from the Audubon Society did a wonderful job.

Ms. Simone talked about the bird walk's highlight was seeing a flock of Blue Birds.

Ms. Simone reported that she planned on speaking to the woman from the Audubon Society about doing a winter bird walk.

**2. Ives Farm Tractor Trot Fall 2016**

Chairman Sherman reported that he was unable to attend the Ives Farm Tractor Trot as planned.

**IX. New Business**

**1. Recycling Letter to the Editor**

Commission members reviewed a copy of the letter sent to the editor of the *Cheshire Herald* that outlined several alternatives available for recycling or discarding common household items.

Members discussed the information in the letter agreed that the letter was very informative.

There was discussion about having the letter published again in the spring.

**2. Renaming Dime Savings Property**

Chairman Sherman provided Commission members with an update regarding the process for renaming the Dime Savings property and the name "*Yankee Expressway*" Commission members had previously proposed.

Chairman Sherman shared a few photos with Commission members showing the stretch on highway from Danbury to Hartford that was already named "*Yankee Expressway*." He said he'd follow up on the naming proposal.

There was discussion about the renaming and the anticipated adoption of the open space management plan.

Chairman Sherman reported that the town council has not yet acted on the open space management plan.

Ms. Sima asked if the property naming would be done under the town council approval or under a separate motion.

Ms. Simone explained that the naming could be done separately and that the property still needs an access entry point. She went on to explain that all town departments need to be on board so that funds allocated are properly spent on property maintenance.

Mr. DeVlyder talked about not having access to town open space properties and that some properties had access.

There was general discussion about the property naming, property access and the maintenance plan.

Chairman Sherman said the original letter regarding the naming could be revisited and that he and Mr. DeVlyder could meet again to review the letter (to the town council).

**Other Discussions:**

**3. Suggestions for 2017**

Chairman Sherman asked Commission members to think about providing project/program suggestions for 2017.

**4. Boulder Knoll Property**

Mr. DeVlyder asked that the Boulder Knoll property be added to next month's agenda.

Mr. DeVlyder explained that the property is not being mowed and is unkept. He reported to Commission members some of the current site conditions he's seen and expressed in his opinion that there's a need for property maintenance. He did note that there were some groups using the property for certain activities.

Ms. Simone explained that Boulder Knoll has one mowing and that the Commission could propose that there be more than one mowing.

Mr. DeVlyder said in his opinion, it's a shame to let the property fall apart and it's no longer a nice looking place.

Mr. Noble talked about urban meadows and surrounding area maintenance. He also suggested having an "adopt a property" plan.

Ms. Simone explained that currently, three acres of the property is used for community supported agriculture.

Chairman Sherman said they'd revisit the maintenance plan for the property.

There was discussion about the property, how it's being used and by whom and the property maintenance plan.

Ms. Sima asked what acreage of the property could be farmed.

**Ms. Simone said she'd look into the agreement and report back to the Commission. She also agreed to add this item to next month's agenda.**

**X. Adjournment**

**Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm.**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm.**

**Moved by Mr. DeVylder. Seconded by Mr. Noble. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Carla Mills  
Recording Secretary**