

Motion: To approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2018.

Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion approved 4-0-1 with Mr. Santoro abstaining.

VI. Election of Officers

Chairman Sherman opened the meeting up for the election of officers.

Ms. Heritage nominated Corrine Abbott as chair of the Environment Commission.

Mr. Santoro seconded the nomination. Members present approved the nomination.

Mr. Santoro nominated Mr. DeVyllder as vice-chair. Ms. Heritage seconded the nomination. Members present approved the nomination.

Ms. Heritage nominated Robert Santoro as secretary. Mr. DeVyllder seconded the nomination. Members present approved the nomination.

Mr. Sherman closed the nominations.

VII. Approval of 2019 Meeting Dates

Motion: To approve the 2019 meeting dates; the Environment Commission will meet the second Wednesday of every month.

Moved by Ms. Heritage. Seconded by Chairwoman Abbott. Motion approved unanimously of Commission members present.

VIII. Communications

Ms. Simone reviewed the following communication:

- 1. The Habitat, CACIWC Fall 2018 Newsletter, volume 30, number 3 (To be handed out at the meeting).**

Ms. Simone provided Commission members a recap of her attendance at the November meeting; she reported the meeting was well done and they had new elements that were interesting regarding

storm water management; invasive plant removal, annual state regulatory updates, and highlighting other interesting topics.

IX. Calendar

There were no calendar items.

Ms. Simone said for the next meeting she'd provide target dates for events – Earth Day, Arbor Day, National Public Lands Day so the Commission could target those dates if they were interested in doing something.

X. Unfinished Business

There were no items of unfinished business.

XI. New Business

1. Open Space Properties: New Information

Ms. Simone said in 2018 they continued to do the monitoring program in conjunction with the Parks Department, Public Works Department and the Police Department on each of the properties; through those inspections they are able to identify if there is trail damage, down trees, if there is erosion, if there are culverts that need to be cleared; the goal is when the Parks Department is out there they can address (those issues) right at the time they identify it or if the work is for another department that information would get relayed to that department as to what the actual problem is.

Ms. Simone reported this is the 3rd year they are doing this and they have had success getting out to the properties, have had constant monitoring and maintaining it for public access; monitoring happens twice a month.

Ms. Simone explained she is also working with Boy Scout groups to come up with short and long term projects so they can get involved in open space property. She said there was an Eagle Scout project on the DeDominicis property where the trails were blazed last summer into early fall 2018; the Boy Scout blazed the red trail and entire purple trail to completion – the purple trail had never been blazed since the town purchased the property; the project worked out real well and was well received by the Boy Scouts who assisted with the project because they got a lot of inquires after that asking what they (the Boy Scouts) could do next.

Mr. Sherman asked if the town has received any inquiries about wheelchair or handicap accessibility to open space properties.

Ms. Simone said no – not for the open space properties. She said she has been in communication with the Town of Southington regarding accessibility to their town properties; and wheelchair accessibility at a canoe launch (this is a large scope project) and may be something untaken by Cheshire.

Ms. Simone explained the goal for the Boulder Knoll project is when the barn gets taken down – the kiosks would be relocated and an eagle scout project would be to put picnic tables in that area; as well as mowing a path to stay on that side of the road to provide a cleared way to cross the street and ability to look both ways to cross the street – that’s a long term plan.

There was discussion about use of the Boulder Knoll property and the upkeep of the property by the town; staff would inquire about the use and maintenance of the property.

XII. Adjournment

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**