

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019
TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Ms. Simone called the roll.

Members present were Chairman Corrine Abbott, Albert Buell, Michael Ceccorulli, Bob DeVyllder, Thomas Hickey and Robert Santoro.

Matt Abdifar was not present.

Staff present Suzanne Simone.

III. Determination of Quorum

Chairman Abbott determined there were enough members present for a quorum.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – May 8, 2019

Ms. Simone noted the minutes of the May 8, 2019 regular meeting were filed in the town clerk's office. The meetings were not formally accepted due to commission membership changes.

VI. Communications

1. Meeting notes of July 10, 2019

Meeting notes from the July 10, 2019 meeting were available for review. There were not enough members present for a quorum at the July 10, 2019 commission meeting.

VII. Calendar

There were no new calendar items. The fall festival event took place in September and the opportunity for a National Lands Day event in September was missed.

Ms. Simone explained to Commission members that most events happen in the spring; that the Commission can explore inviting a guest speaker to speak at the library – the planning for a spring event has to take place now in order to nail down a date in April (2020). She explained that many of the programs have good turnouts.

Ms. Simone reported that past events at the library included a Bat program, Invasive Species, Hiking in Cheshire, and Organic Gardening – a speaker from the Connecticut Agricultural Station presented.

Chairman Abbott said she'd like to see an offering on invasive species (vegetation).

Ms. Simone agreed to look into finding a speaker who can present on invasive species eradication.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Recap of Fall Festival

Chairman Abbott provided Commission members with an update on the Commission's attendance at the fall festival event in September. She reported that she, Mr. DeVylder and Mr. Santoro staffed the booth.

There was discussion about ways to generate more traffic to the Commission's booth including giving away dog treats and apples in addition to the bags that were given out; and to have a sign up sheet to collect email addresses so people can receive event/program updates and emails about other town sponsored events that tie in with the environment commission efforts; and to have a volunteer sign up sheet for those interested helping with clean-up efforts at open space properties.

IX. New Business

There were no new business items to discuss.

Commission members talked about ideas for future programs and events.

Mr. Hickey suggested having a bird walk program similar to what the Land Trust does or launch a hiking series.

There was discussion about holding once a month hikes on open space properties; and holding a hike the day after Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. DeVlyder suggested having area sporting goods stores present on what is good hiking gear to wear if you hike in the winter.

Commission members liked the idea of hosting a hiking event in late fall at the Casertano property; off street parking is available and easy to navigate trail.

Ms. Simone explained that at least two Commission members would be needed to run a hike; and that she could work on planning a late fall hike; and put the once planned hike on websites and in the *Cheshire Herald* and she could work with other groups to get the word out.

Mr. Santoro asked if dogs were allowed on the open space trails.

Ms. Simone said leashed dogs were allowed on the trails.

Commission members discussed bear sightings in town and that there may be some fear of bears being on hiking trails.

X. Adjournment

A motion was called for to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Moved by Chairman Abbott. Seconded by Mr. DeVlyder. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**