

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – ROOM 115 – 7:00 P.M.**

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**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Santoro called the roll.

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

Matt Abdifar was not present.

Staff present Suzanne Simone.

**III. Determination of Quorum**

It was 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 – October 9, 2019**

Motion: To approve the minutes from the October 9, 2019 regular meeting with a correction on page 2 under unfinished business – VIII. Albert Buell was at the Fall Festival.

Moved by Mr. Ceccorulli. Seconded by Mr. Santoro. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

**VI. Communications**

None.

## VII. Calendar

### 2020 State and National Environmental Dates:

- a. Earth Day – Wednesday April 22
- b. Trails Day – Usually first Weekend of June; Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7
- c. Fall Festival-Usually second Weekend of September
- d. National Public Lands Day – Usually third weekend of September

Ms. Simone explained the list was just to give the Commission a general idea of programs that the Environment Commission has participated in in the past.

Past events included Earth Day, Trails Day – both events are something that focuses on being outside – getting people outside exploring properties; the Fall Festival entails handing out information about open space resources in the town; and National Public Lands Day is either a hike or a public service day.

## VIII. Unfinished Business

There were no unfinished business items to discuss.

## IX. New Business

### 1. Commission Led Public Hikes

Chairman Abbott talked about the Commission coming up with some program ideas; one idea was that the Commission sponsor a hike in late November.

There was discussion about hosting a hike on an open space property on November 29<sup>th</sup> – the day after Thanksgiving.

Ms. Simone explained she drafted a press release based on press releases they have done in the past and that it's up to the Commission to fine tune it (to promote the hike).

Ms. Simone provided information about how things are handled if it rains. She said it depends on the event or the property if the event is held in the rain (light rain the hike will still happen, or they can say its

postponed to the next day and other times it says cancelled which makes it very clear to people – otherwise it is very up in the air for people – so for the draft release she prepared she took the liberty to say rain cancels the event.

Ms. Simone asked would the Commission want to allow people to bring their dogs – dogs would have to remain on their leash and then also they need to consider what if dogs don't get along – she is just putting that out there for discussion.

Ms. Simone informed the Commission that she is not going to be able to attend the hike; and there needed to be at least 2 Commission members present so whoever is there would be in charge.

Chairman Abbott said in her opinion, she was not opposed to dogs – people would have to be responsible for their dogs.

Ms. Simone explained dogs would have to be on leashes; so, the draft could say 'friendly dogs on leashes are welcome.

Commission members talked about other hike related details relating to hosting the hike on November 29<sup>th</sup> – Black Friday Hike.

Ms. Simone noted she could have the announcement to be in the *Cheshire Herald* the week before and the week of the hike.

Ms. Simone reiterated the Commission really needed two people to host the hike – one leading the hike and one trailing the group.

Chairman Abbott talked about hosting hikes in the future on a regular basis – starting in March 21, 2020 (rain date March 28).

Commission members could not commit to staffing the November 29<sup>th</sup> hike; but would let staff know if they could.

Ms. Simone had map of open spaces available, so Commission members could familiarize themselves with the town's open space properties.

There was discussion regarding safety protocols to follow on the properties; and talked about legal concerns taking people on hikes.

**Ms. Simone suggested Commission members meet at the properties to hike them first in order to get familiar with the properties.; she talked about opportunities for Commission members to visit the properties when staff offers hikes as part of other programing.**

**Hikes would be added the agenda for 2020.**

**Mr. Hickey had other ideas about having a bird program.**

**There was general discussion about programming ideas; the idea is to get people out to the open space properties.**

**X. Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm.**

**Moved by Mr. Ceccorulli. Seconded by Mr. Santoro. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Carla Mills  
Recording Secretary**