

**CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Chairman Bill Sherman, Jodee Heritage, Dave Mercugliano and Carrie Collins-White.

Members not present: Matt Abdifar, Bob DeVlyder, and Daniel Grasso.

Staff: Bill Voelker, town planner.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Heritage called to roll.

**III. Determination of Quorum
Commissioner Attendance Summary**

Members in attendance were Chairman Bill Sherman, Jodee Heritage, Dave Mercugliano and Carrie Collins-White.

Members not present were Matt Abdifar, Bob DeVlyder, and Daniel Grasso.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting of April 9, 2014

The approval of the minutes was deferred to the June 11, 2014 meeting.

VI. Communications

1. The Habitat, CACIWC Spring 2014 Newsletter
(To be handed out at the meeting)

A copy of The Habitat was handed out to Commission members.

Chairman Sherman noted that there was an article on “How to Support Native Pollinators in 2014” that provided a list of perennials with native

distribution in Connecticut, also present in nursery trade that were deer resistant.

Chairman Sherman said he would make sure that Mr. DeVylder saw the article since he had mentioned he had issues with deer in this yard.

VII. Calendar – Events

1. Trails Day- June 7, 2014

Chairman Sherman noted that Trails Day would be held on Saturday, June 7, 2014 (with a rate date of Sunday, June 8, 2014).

More information about the event would be covered under unfinished business.

2. National Public Lands Day- September 27, 2014

National Public Lands Day will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Trails Day Event

a. Eagle Scout progress update

Chairman Sherman reported that Boy Scout Patrick Hedden has paint and the templates to blaze the trail on the Casertano property.

b. Commission attendance

Chairman Sherman queried Commission members who were present regarding their participation with the Trails Day event.

Ms. Collins-White said she would be able to attend. Ms. Heritage and Mr. Mercugliano would not be able to attend.

Chairman Sherman said he'd check with the absent members regarding their attendance.

c. Hike route, and possible multiple groups based on attendance

Chairman Sherman suggested a pre-hike prior to the June 7 event so Commission members would be familiar with the trail

area. He said he'd coordinate the pre-hike date and time via email correspondence.

d. Display and handout materials

Chairman Sherman said that Ms. Simone had provided him with the display and handout materials for the event.

e. Supplies

Chairman Sherman explained he has a canopy he would bring to set up at the event.

Commission members discussed having trail maps available for hike participants. There was discussion about having traffic cones to control the traffic flow – it was noted there's no parking on Marion Road. Items to bring to the event included insect repellent and water.

Mr. Mercugliano said they should have a first aid kit available at the event.

Mr. Voelker stated he'd make sure a first aid kit was provided.

Ms. Heritage asked if they could hand out the open space logo stickers.

Chairman Sherman suggested having business cards available for participants.

Ms. Collins-White suggested having copies of the trails maps available the day of the event.

f. Press releases and advertisement

Chairman Sherman said that Ms. Simone can prepare and distribute a press release and advertisement for Trails Day to be published in the *Cheshire Herald*, as she did for past events. He explained that Ms. Simone can also take care of posting the event on Facebook.

Ms. Collins-White said once the event is posted on the town's Facebook site members could the post with their Facebook friends and contact to increase awareness about the event.

Chairman Sherman suggested that maybe they can have a ribbon cutting of the Casertano Trail and the *Cheshire Herald* could take a photo for publication in the paper.

2. High School invitation to explore open space

Chairman Sherman asked Ms. Heritage about the plan to send out the invitation to high school teachers regarding the exploration of open space (in Cheshire).

Ms. Heritage said to date there's not been any movement on the invitation. She explained this might not be the right time since it's the end of the year (academic) but she would move forward come September if Commission members are okay with that plan.

Commission members agreed to move forward with the invitation in September.

Ms. Heritage said she'd go ahead with making contact with her high school contact.

Chairman Sherman said this item would be carried over on the agenda for the September meeting.

3. Property Maintenance

Chairman Sherman reported that as of the last meeting we understood the kiosk at the Ten Mile Lowlands was scheduled to be installed – he said he was there today and it is there – he took a couple of pictures and can share those with you (Commission members).

Chairman Sherman asked Mr. Voelker if he had any other information about any property related maintenance items.

Mr. Voelker explained we continue from time to time to get inquires about potential acquisitions of open space. He said when these properties are near being taken to the Town Council and a decision is favorable Ms. Simone would bring information forward to the Commission.

Mr. Voelker reported that the maintenance program Ms. Simone put together with some collaboration from Public Works and Park and Recreation is now with the town manager and they are waiting for the program to take place. He said this a major limitation piece for the community to have regular maintenance and responsibilities assigned for various things that happen upon open space properties. He

explained it takes the front office to do delegation of specific responsibilities to carry them forward.

Mr. Voelker said that work is being done to get the work (maintenance) implemented and that they are getting closer to that happening.

Mr. Voelker said that Ms. Simone did an excellent job (on the maintenance plans).

IX. New Business

Chairman Sherman stated there were no items of new business on the agenda.

X. Adjournment

The next meeting would be held Wednesday, May 11, 2014

Chairman Sherman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Heritage moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Dave Mercugliano. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**