

**TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015
TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 PM**

Members present: Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Jodee Heritage, Matt Abdifar, Dave Mercugliano and Carrie Collins-White.

Members not present: Daniel Grasso.

Staff: Suzanne Simone.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Collins-White called the roll.

Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVylder, Jodee Heritage, Matt Abdifar, Dave Mercugliano and Carrie Collins-White.

III. Determination of Quorum

There were enough members present for a quorum. Daniel Grasso was not present.

Commissioner Attendance Summary

1. Attendance Letter

Chairman Sherman explained to Commission that he sent a letter to Mr. Grasso regarding his attendance at Commission meeting.

A copy of the letter was provided to Commission members for their review. Mr. Grasso has not attended a Commission meeting for some time.

The Commission discussed the need to have a full membership so they could have a quorum at every meeting.

Chairman Sherman explained he's not yet received a reply from Mr. Grasso.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – March 11, 2015

Motion: To approve the minutes from the regular meeting March 11, 2015 with corrections.

Pg. 1 under II. Change “Ms. Heritage” to “Ms. Collins-White”; pg. 2 “sets” to “steps”, “town clerk” to “Commission”; pg. 4 delete “explained he”, change “providing” to “provided”, and “business card” to “Rotary Club members”.

Moved by Mr. Abdifar. Seconded by Mr. Mercugliano. Motion approved 5-0-1 with Ms. Heritage abstaining (she was not present at the March meeting).

VI. Communications

1. The Habitat Newsletter: To be handed out at meeting

Commission members received a copy of the newsletter.

2. Copy of Cheshire Land Trust listing for CT Trails Day event

Commission members received a copy of the listing for Connecticut Trails Day event.

3. Eagle Court of Honor for Patrick Hedden

Commission members talked about the invitation attend the Eagle Court of Honor for Boy Scout Patrick Hedden.

Mr. Mercugliano explained that Commission members were invited to attend the Eagle Court of Honor. He explained he would be attending the event on behalf of the Commission to say a few words on behalf of Patrick Hedden and the work he did at the Casertano property trail.

Mr. Mercugliano encouraged other members to attend the event.

Ms. Simone and the Town Manager’s office would send letters regarding the project work Mr. Hedden did on the Casertano property project.

VII. Calendar – Events

Commission members reviewed the calendar of upcoming events.

1. Connecticut Trails Day, Saturday, June 6, 2015

The Cheshire Land Trust will be holding a CT Trails Day event at the Old Farms Preserve & Dedominicis Property on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 9-11 am.

The Environment Commission will not be holding a separate Connecticut Trails Day event.

2. National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 26, 2015

Chairman Sherman talked about what type of event the Commission could have for National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 26, 2015.

Ms. Simone suggested having a volunteer service day or a showing of an open space property.

Commission members discussed the ideas of having a volunteer service day or a showing of a property.

Ms. Simone said she'd come up with some possible event ideas for the next meeting.

Ms. Collins-White commented about the upcoming Cheshire Fall Festival (Saturday, September 12) and what the Commission could do for the festival.

Ms. Simone agreed to add the Cheshire Fall Festival item to next month's agenda.

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Ten Mile Lowlands hike, Recap

Chairman Sherman provided a recap of the Ten Mile Lowlands Hike held in April. He explained that he, Ms. Collins-White, a reporter from the *Cheshire Citizen* and two members of the public attended the hike.

Chairman Sherman said the hike got good publicity and a write up was in the *Cheshire Citizen* after the event. He said those who attended the hike seemed to enjoy it – they were able to see the vernal pools and other property features.

Ms. Collins-White said she agreed with Chairman Sherman that the hike went well.

2. Town Naming Policy

Chairman Sherman said he has not had the opportunity to draft the letter regarding the naming policy but will work on it soon.

3. Property Updates

There were no new property updates. Ms. Simone stated she would soon be starting her review of the properties.

IX. New Business

1. Use of Plastic Bags

Ms. Collins-White informed Commission members about the Connecticut senate legislation and a proposed bill to ban the use of plastic bags (disposal grocery type bags). She talked about the short life cycle of a disposable plastic bags (about twelve minutes from customer purchase to being thrown away) and the development of educational programs regarding the use of reusable bags.

Ms. Collins-White explained there are other communities that have banned the use of plastic bags or charged the customer for bags.

Ms. Simone asked about the cost of making a single use plastic bag.

Ms. Collins-White said she didn't have the information on cost analysis for producing plastic bags. She would provide more information at the next meeting.

Ms. Heritage talked about the Commission getting reusable logo bags so they could use them as a give-a-way at the Fall Festival.

Ms. Simone agreed to get prices for the bags.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Abdifar. Seconded by Ms. Heritage. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted by:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary**