

**TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015
TOWN HALL ROOM 115 AT 7:00 PM**

Members present: Bill Sherman, Bob DeVyllder, Jodee Heritage, and Dave Mercugliano.

Members not present: Matt Abdifar and Carrie Collins-White.

Staff: Suzanne Simone.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Ms. Heritage called the roll.

Members present were Bill Sherman, Bob DeVyllder, Jodee Heritage, and Dave Mercugliano.

III. Determination of Quorum

There were enough members present for a quorum. Matt Abdifar and Carrie Collins-White were not present.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

V. Acceptance of Minutes – Regular Meeting – August 12, 2015

Motion: To approve the minutes from the regular meeting on August 12, 2015 with a correction on page 5 “Kensetts” to “Kensett.”

Moved by Mr. DeVyllder. No one seconded the motion. Ms. Heritage and Mr. Mercugliano stated they were not present at the August meeting.

Chairman Sherman stated the motion did not carry so the approval of the August 12, 2015 minutes would be brought up at the next meeting.

VI. Communications

Commission members received copies of the following communications:

1. CACIWC 38TH Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference 11/14/15

Ms. Simone stated that any member interested in attending the November 14, 2015 CACIWC meeting and environmental conference should contact staff so they can be signed up.

2. Copy of letter sent to the Cheshire Horse Council (without attachments)

VII. Calendar – Events

Commission members reviewed the calendar of upcoming events.

These events would be taken up under new business.

- 1. Fall Festival, Saturday, September 12, 2015**
- 2. 2. National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 26, 2015**

VIII. Unfinished Business

1. Dime Savings Property Naming

Chairman Sherman provided Commission members with an update of the renaming of the Dime Savings property. He informed members that the item was on the September planning committee agenda for review before it goes to the Town Council so things are in the works.

Ms. Simone agreed to send a copy of the committee meeting minutes to Commission members after the item was discussed.

There was discussion about access to the Dime Savings property. Ms. Simone stated that discussions about access to the property were ongoing.

2. Property Updates

Ms. Simone reported that there were ongoing discussions with other town departments about the properties. She said that the police department has been going out to a various open space properties.

3. Use of Plastic Bags

Chairman Sherman informed members that Commission member Carrie Collins-White developed a piece (flyer) about the use of plastic bags for the fall festival to give as a handout. The other side of the flyer promotes the National Public Lands Day on September 26.

Ms. Simone noted the flyer was printed on 100% recycled paper. A copy of the flyer was available for Commission members review.

IX. New Business

1. Fall Festival

Chairman Sherman talked about the upcoming fall festival being held on Saturday, September 12, 2015.

Ms. Simone brought the box of materials with the open space and property maps, the plastic bag flyer, and the give-a-way reusable bags to the meeting so they could be brought to the festival on Saturday.

Chairman Sherman said he'd be available to set up the Commission's booth the morning of September 12. He asked for support from other Commission members.

Mr. Mercugliano said he'd be available at some point in the day to help at the booth.

Ms. Heritage and Mr. DeVlyder were not available.

Chairman Sherman said he'd contact Mr. Abdifar and Ms. Collins-White to see if they were available to staff the booth.

2. National Public Lands Day Event

Ms. Simone reported that as part of the National Public Lands Day Event on September 26 volunteers would help blaze existing trails at the DeDominicis property. She explained that the necessary supplies would be available to re-blaze the trails.

Chairman Sherman asked about having clean up materials available so debris along the trails could be picked up.

Ms. Simone explained that the town manager approved of supplying clean up materials, gloves, waters, etc. for volunteers use.

3. Request for Public Hikes

Jodee Heritage updated the Commission on the request for a public hike from the folks at Arts Place and the Historical Society in honor of Cheshire artist John Kensett.

Ms. Heritage informed Commission members that one of John Kensett's favorite places to paint was at Roaring Brook and that there has been discussion about the possibility of having a hike at this location.

There was discussion about the hike being held at Roaring Brook and having artists set up along the flat parts of the trail painting so hikers could stop along the hike trail and watch the artists paint the landscape.

Commission members discussed the hike idea and possible dates to hold the event. John Kensett's 200th birthday is in March but weather conditions might not be suitable so two dates in late April were proposed – April 23 and April 30. There was some discussion about having a rain date.

Ms. Heritage said she'd follow up with Arts Place and the Historical Society about the proposed hike dates.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Carla Mills
Recording Secretary