I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David DeFusco at 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Randy Yale called the roll.

Commission Members present: David DeFusco; Randy Yale; William Sherman.; Bonnie Mayer; John Pepper; Staff present: Suzanne Simone, Environmental Planner; Anne Giddings, Town Council liaison.

Absent members: Robert DeVylder, Sr.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge was recited.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

April 14, 2010, Regular Meeting Minutes. MOTION was made by Randy Yale to accept the minutes, SECONDED by Bonnie Mayer. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimous.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

1. April Tip of the Month:

Bonnie Mayer drafted the April Tip of the Month on invasive and native species and she will forward it to the Cheshire Herald.

2. Letter to Commissioners from Chairman DeFusco

Refer to New Business.
VI. COMMUNICATIONS continued

3. Staff Memo, RE: Open Space Account Funding

Ms. Simone reported that the Open Spaces are funded through bond proceeds. Anne Giddings reported that it can also be funded through Capitol Nonrecurring budget.

4. Staff Memo, Re: Open Space Binders

Binders were distributed to all members present.

VII. CALENDAR – EVENTS

Mr. DeFusco recommended hosting a hike for Trails Day on Saturday June 5th. The Environmental Commission decided to sponsor a hike to Roaring Brook falls. Ms. Simone reported that there is on street parking available for Roaring Brook Park and reviewed the map of this facility. Chairman DeFusco will draft announcement for the Cheshire Herald for the hike to Roaring Brook Falls for 10:00 AM hike for the public in recognition of Trails Day. Anne Giddings will mention it at the Town Council meeting.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Summary of Earth Day programs/events

According to Ms. Simone there were approximately 175 participants at the Earth Day events (including lectures and outdoor events) and 350 maps of town properties distributed to the public.

Mrs. Giddings stated that there are maps available at the library downstairs. Ms. Simone also provides a monthly display of a plant or animal at the library for informational purposes.

2. Tip of the Month

Mrs. Giddings suggested that the Tip could be recycling of 1 – 7 plastics which is now available in Cheshire. Mr. Sherman described that the trash company could drop off a circular on this in everyone’s recycle bin. Mr. Yale will contact the public works and the Police regarding this Tip. Mr. Yale will draft the Tip on the recycling of plastics. Ms. Giddings described that this Tip can be distributed to the schools.
IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Commission Goals for 2010

Mr. DeFusco recommended that the Commission take on achievable goals and to start with smaller parcels and make gains. Mr. DeFusco recommended the Casertano property as one needing improvements. Ms. Simone showed survey map of this property and described the entrance off Marion Road.

Ms. Giddings reported that the horse trail group helps to maintain the DeDominicis property. Ms. Simone described that the DeDominicis property is in good shape. Ms. Simone reported that the Dimes Savings property is the largest parcel (300 acres) with limited access and ATV trails.

Mr. Yale proposed a Green Energy development project which will include involvement with other Commissions and Universities (Yale, Quinnipiac, etc...). Mr. Yale described using properties in town like the prison and Pratt & Whitney to foster development in this area. Cheshire could be known for Green homes.

Mr. Pepper proposed marketing the open spaces using a logo to get the word out to the public. Mr. Pepper showed brands used by similar groups. Mr. Pepper stated that a contest could be used in town to develop the brand and add signs with the logos advertising the open space properties.

Mrs. Mayer described that there is a graphic design club at the high school that could be involved. The Commission discussed the naming of the Logo and the specifics of this project.

MOTION was made by Chairman DeFusco for John Pepper to develop the logo contest idea to promote the open spaces by the next meeting, SECONDED by William Sherman. The motion to develop a logo contest was unanimous.

2. Discussion of DeDominicis Trails

Ms. Simone stated that this topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Mixville Hills Access

Ms. Simone described that the town attorney will investigate the options on the Mixville Hills property access. Ms. Simone will provide information on the time frame of this item at the next meeting.
4. Discussion of Casertano Property Walk: April 28, 2010

Ms. Simone described that the Commission members entered from Marion and the trail is overcome by Multiflora Rose. The Commission members had to dig a hole to enter this property. Ms. Simone will contact the Police Department to inquire about parking for this property. Ms. Simone also stated that the focus is needed for volunteers regarding cleanup of this property.

Mr. DeFusco made a MOTION to create a subcommittee to investigate the condition of the Casertano property and develop a plan for rehabilitation, SECONDED by John Pepper. The motion to create a subcommittee to make improvements to the Casertano property was unanimous.

5. Discussion of Roaring Brook Property Walk: May 3, 2010

This walk was cancelled due to weather. The Commission decided to reschedule the Roaring Brook walk for Monday May 24th at 6:30 PM.

Chairman DeFusco announced that he is stepping down as Chairman. Mrs. Mayer nominated Randy Yale as Chairman, SECONDED by William Sherman. The motion to install Randy Yale as Chairman was unanimous.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Randy Yale to adjourn the meeting, SECONDED by Bonnie Mayer. This motion was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Environment Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, Room 115.

Respectfully submitted

Erin Bennett, Recording Secretary
Cheshire Environmental Commission