Cornwall Conservation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of September 15 ,2022

Location: Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:33

ATTENDING

Commissioners Heidi Cunnick, Nancy Berry, Katie Freygang, Deb Bennett

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

A motion was made by Deb Bennett and seconded by Heidi Cunnick to approve the minutes of the Aug 18th meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Nancy Berry reported that the balance in the account was static at $2260. Discussion ensued about a request for funds for the 2023 CACIWC dues of $60. It was noted that the funds were approved last year. In the future, the commissioners will fill out a template to be provided by Nancy. Documents can also be scanned to her email address.

OLD BUSINESS

Section #1 Projects Near Completion

In order not to lose sight of the projects and pending decisions in front of the commission, it was decided that the captains of the various projects should list the topics to be discussed at the next meeting at the end of the current meeting.

No topics were brought forward for the October agenda.

Section # 2 Education and Outreach

The Ag Fair was universally heralded as a great success in large part because interested leaders of various environment projects were able to collaborate with each other under The Green Tent. The participants here were the Cornwall Garden Club, Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Energy Task Force and Sustainable CT. Composting displays and information, flower pressing, brochures and maps informed an interested public.

Various weak points were discussed in order to remedy publicity and team setup process . The Conservation Commission seems to need a booster club in this AG Fair venue. More effective publicity would have been great. Inserts in the Chronicle have been planned for next year.

Coordination with other groups (CCT, Garden Club, Town of Cornwall, Sustainable CT) has been an important topic. It was decided that this issue will gain greater importance in the upcoming year.

Website

A note will be sent to public member Margie Purnell , keeper of all things Website, requesting the posting of the minutes to the website. It was also noted that Rocco will also post minutes if we forward to him.

There are a few updates needed to the website home listings. Deb will also communicate those to Margie with many thanks for her efforts here.

Waste/Composting

The Commission would like to invest energy in developing a town-wide composting program. Many names and coordinating groups (Garden Club, CCC, Cary Institute) were brought into the discussion and a preliminary format in the Spring was sketched out. It would include a Library presentation featuring a speaker from the Cary Institute followed by a hands-on demonstration. Heidi sent all a video on composting as a springboard to this project.

Section #3 Program Monitoring Whereby active ongoing projects are reviewed by Committee leads

Herbicide by HRRC

Heidi recognized the need to get other towns involved in the HRRC Herbiciding Program; otherwise, she felt there would be little chance of success. Katie promised to send around a list of names of key players in each town. She is also developing maps including the Inner and Outer Corridor as well as NDDB to help in the process.

Lake Task Force

Heidi and her sister, Elizabeth, tested the Lake this month. Results will be

forthcoming.

Invasives

Deb reported that there are active control programs being accomplished by Bob Gambino this month. Coordination with the Town and CCT was noted.

The subject of invasives is becoming a key issue as people recognize the increasingly negative aspects of these pests. Once again, coordination was stressed particularly as it applies to the Town and the Town Crew. Ways to educate the same were discussed and will be the subject of future meetings.

New Business

It was proposed by Katie Freygang to move the agenda heading of Sustainable CT, currently under Section #2 , Education and Outreach, to Section #3, Program Monitoring under its own heading. It was agreed to by all present.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.