**CCC minutes for the Meeting of December 15, 2022**

Location: Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:334 am

Attending was Heidi Cunnick, Chair, Commissioners Nancy Berry, Katherine Freygang, Deb Bennett. Also in attendance was public member Margie Purnell.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Nancy Berry reported that the treasury has a balance of $1975.42. There was some confusion about duplicate invoices going to Barbara Herbst. It was agreed that all invoices will be submitted by the Treasurer, not the members, on a standardized form which all the Commissioners now have.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Section #1-Projects Near Completion**

The calendar was approved as written. The meetings are to be held at 9 am on the third Thurs of the month. There are no meetings in February or December. Some of the meetings will be held in person (e.g., January 19th) at the Library.

**Section #2-Education and Outreach**

Waste and Composting

There was substantial discussion about one of the key projects of the Conservation Commission. In conjunction with The Cornwall Garden Club, CCC will present a forum on Composting on Earth Day April 22, 2023. Still in the formative stages, this forum will host four notable speakers. They will be Barbara Bettigole, Mike Nadeau, Dr Jane Lucas and one other speaker yet undecided. Moderator will be Richard Schlessinger. After the panel discussion the group will sponsor a village walkabout in which the public will be invited to observe local composting venues. This group effort was aided by the work of Katy Kinsolving of the Cary Institute.

Heidi noted that she will forward the video featuring Barbara Bettingole who discusses the Sharon-Salisbury composting programs. Deb Bennett visited this site and was most impressed with the organization and scale of the transfer station. Deb also volunteered to assume the responsibilities of the CCC coordinator on the day of the program as Heidi would be absent.

Heidi will take the lead on gathering the numbers from Will and Ted at the Cornwall Transfer Station regarding municipal composting. The last cost estimate was higher than previously thought so it was noted that there is much work to be done gathering the data. The members reasoned that they needed to get the attention of the Board of Selectmen to raise this issue townwide. To that end, Heidi will hopefully present at the January 17th BOS meeting.

**Section #3-Program Monitoring Whereby Active Ongoing Projects are Monitored by Committee Leads**

Herbicideby HRRC

Members of the town-wide committee will be meeting in the upcoming weeks to enlist HVA and other signatories for the project. The purpose is to effect greater impact when the time comes to address specific requests to the HRRC. They are currently looking to identify areas of “no spray” zones, the timing of these applications as well the actual chemicals being used. At present, the group does not plan to address the railroad directly.

Sustainable CT

Katie reported that she was disappointed in correspondence with the administration of Sustainable CT in that they did not recognize the town’s ongoing efforts to update the “task list” over the summer with two Sustainable interns despite acknowledged communication with them about this update. Sustainable CT indicated that our “award” would expire. Katie also communicated that the administration of Sust. CT did not take the completely small-town volunteer efforts ( to accomplish the various tasks under all the headings) would be nigh impossible without paid staff.

It was decided that the town would continue these efforts with or without award acknowledgements.

The Nature Conservancy offered to present a plan of Infrastructure Resiliency to the Town. For Cornwall, this would mostly entail inland waterways hazards as well as mitigation of same. Katie will write a letter asking for more information. Margie offered to volunteer as a volunteer in the program if the group decided to participate.

Lake Task Force

Heidi reported that she got the UConn report for the lake and will analyze at a

Future time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am