CCC Minutes for Regular Meeting May 18, 2023

Location: Zoom

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the April 13, 2023 were approved.

Attending was Commissioners Nancy Berry, Katherine Freygang, Deb Bennett, Chair Heidi Cunnick

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Nancy Berry reported that balance in the budget is $1790.42. There will be an expenditure of $250 each for the testing in May and June.

**OLD BUSINESS**

 **Section #1-Discussions of Items Near Completion**

It was agreed that the Waste/Composting Forum that was held in April was a great success with full attendance. The next steps on this subject need to be outlined. Composting will be featured at the Ag Fair this Sept. Communication with the Town needs to be established.

To that end, representatives of CCC will meet with Ted Larson at the transfer station. It is important to find out how the permitting process is moving along. It has been reported that NDDB report cited the existence of wood turtles which may hold up the process.

 **Section #2-Education and Outreach**

The Lake Testing Outreach Event will be held at the Cream Hill Lake Club on July 15. This event will spell out the need for volunteers as well as explain the need for funds needed for professional testing and education. Heidi reported that more data is needed to establish a comprehensive history of water quality in CHL.

Invasive species has become an increasingly important topic and Deb Bennett has been assigned the task of compiling a history and map of the invasive species control in Cornwall. A special meeting will be called in July to finalize numbers and to develop a plan on how to communicate this problem to the town. It was suggested that we have a fall presentation before the Ag Fair. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

No Mow May efforts have been raised and championed by NWCD.

Initial discussion ensued about the Ag Fair on Sept. 10th. It was noted that a comprehensive list needs to be developed about the representatives of the Green Tent.

Heidi has spoken to Bill Dineen, head of the Ag Commission about being included in all the publications and promotions as this was absent last year. He has agreed. Deb will contact Mag Cooley about the Women’s Society tent that was donated last year.

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

 **Leads**

**HMSP** progress was reported by K Freygang and Deb Bennett. Publicity efforts by Katie have resulted in great exposure for the project. The tree grove which had been planted in the fall has been almost completely successful. A bioswale planting of native plants is scheduled for June 2 and 3. Volunteers will be solicited.

Regarding the **Air Quality** project, Katie reported that ongoing work is slowly moving forward at the State level. Problems with baseline monitoring are being worked out.

It was suggested that Heidi ask Anna Timmell, head of P&Z if we could present a “refresher” on the **Ridgeline Project** whereby salient facts would be stated in a summary. Heidi will find out the best way to do this.

On **Sustainable CT** front, Katie reported good progress working with the EDC. Duncan Webb has been appointed the Sustainable CT rep for the group and meetings will now be held. Katie has also been working with CCS on an energy plan and sees a possible role for expansion.

Heidi reported on the **HRRC Herbicide Project**. She had sent the proposal outlined by HRRC to all members about Proposed Elements of Best Practices for Herbicide Application in Railroad Right of Way. The group has been making forward progress with the Selectmen and the railroad company. In the proposal, the group requested best management practices as utilized by Massachusetts. The railroad was asked to abide by certain wetland/watercourse protocols as well as respecting private wells. Certain herbicides are restricted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The group is planning a special meeting at 107 Cream Hill Rd West Cornwall to discuss the 2024 projects and calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16