

Minutes of the ccc nov 16,2023

Call to order 9:09 am

Attending was Katherine Freygang, Deb Bennett, Heidi Cunnick, Nancy Berry as well as public member Lisa Keskinen.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes for August as well as minutes for September 21, 2023 were approved for posting

Treasurer Nancy Berry noted that the dues for CACIWC were paid until July, 2024. Both Heidi and Deb attended the annual conference. There is a current balance of \$1378.89.

Section #2 -Education, Outreach, Annual Plan

Katie reported on SCT: CCS is interested in partnering UCONN to monitor energy use using the EPA Manager Portfolio. CCS has new inverters and a monitoring system to replace Fat Spaniel to compare CCS with other schools. CCS will then build educational programming around that. The EDC would like to use this model to mark savings for other town buildings and businesses.

The EDC is working to develop a “place making” strategy at Cornwall Bridge by developing better traffic patterns, adding signage, and installing EV stations to make the center more economically viable.

Heidi reported on the development of a weather resiliency plan with the BoS Through a two-tiered approach. The hazard mitigation arm of the plan would focus on identifying and funding infrastructure improvements. As the town already has a mitigation plan with the road crew, Social Services, ambulance and fire department, it is expected that funding would be more readily available to Cornwall. The second tier would develop town recommendations for future trouble spots.

Section #3

Deb and Heidi are working on an Invasive map and policy statement. The purpose is to identify the top problem invasives and prioritize the areas of control. The goal is to create a comprehensive document to present to the BOS for funding and coordination for removal. Lisa Keskinen has agreed to join the commission as a new member starting off as an invasive captain focusing on mapping phragmites.

HMSP leader Katie reported that the third planting has been completed of 15 trees and shrubs along the bank. Phase one and two were 20 trees and 3 raingardens. Still to come is signage, watering and final invasive removal.

On January 10th, Deb and Heidi will be recapping a recent P&Z presentation on ridgeline recommendations to the BOS with a renewed emphasis on resiliency.

Nancy Berry reported on composting mandates of the State of CT. As the state dictates that every town has to have a plan for wet garbage disposal by 2027, Nancy suggested that we contact them asking for financial assistance. The BOS has already suggested using some funds for analysis of the issue. It was further agreed that we need a spread sheet of costs for the various options to present to BOS. A cost/benefit analysis as well as “the right thing to do” must be considered.

With regards to the Cream Hill Lake issues, it was suggested that a boat washing station be considered in order to prevent the spread of more invasives. The lake will be retested this coming year at no charge by CT Ag Experiment Sta. Office of Aquatic Invasive Species. They will be mapping for invasive species as some have been found in the lake last year.

There will be no meeting in December. For the 2024 calendar, it was agreed that the commissioners would meet on the third Thursday of the month at 9 am via Zoom. The next meeting is January 18, 2024. There is no February meeting. The March 21 meeting will be on at the Library in person.