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**Minutes**

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 9 am

Zoom Recording: Passcode 055122

**Attending:**

Debbie Bennett, Heidi Cunnick, Katie Freygang, Robin Gray, Lisa Keskinen, Tony Scott

**AGENDA**

**Meeting and Commission Business**

* Call to order, welcome new commissioners Tony and Robin
* Approval of Agenda, with a change that we are approving August not July minutes
* Voted to approve August minutes. Heidi offered to take minutes for the meeting and in response to a request for a new minute taker, Robin offered to take the minutes for future meetings

**Section #1 Items near completion or recently completed as reported upon by the leaders of those areas**

* Ag Fair, Katie - Margie created a great invasive species presentation. Nancy and Margie helped to repair the tent. Included under the tent were the Housatonic River commission, Sustainable CT, Energy Task Force, Motherhouse, Conservation trust, commission plus more. Margie put up an exhibition of invasive species. Alisha North came and had an herbals presentation. Not sure what tent situation will be next year. The tent has become an accepted and even important part of the Ag Fair..
* Robin has been giving some thought to the intersection of ag and conservation.
* Katie recommends attend some of the Ag Commissions meetings and build bridges. Katie and Robin to connect on this after the meeting.

**Section #2 Education and Outreach**

* EDC’s work and intersection with the Commission, Katie
  + Katie reported that the good news is that we have a Good committee assembled for EDC, COG, DOT, and residents. Gordon had engaged an engineering firm to come up with a plan with all that information and the less good news is that two people have been working on this and there is some confusion about their roles and disagreement on moving forward. There is also confusion about the level of financial support of West Cornwall versus Cornwall Bridge. Duncan Webb is the new sustainable CT representative for this group. Looking at putting in a sidewalk in Cornwall Bridge and get a landscaping plan for the triangle.
  + Katie is also working on monitoring and creating an energy report for the CCS. Katie is looking to make a presentation to the town on this and Deb asked if possible she could present first to our CCC maybe at the next meeting.
* Heidi reviewed the composting situation. It does not seem composting can be done at our transfer station due to the cost of engineering the site. And the idea of the regional compost was recently voted down by the COGs. Tony asked what Gordon wants in terms of town composting. Heidi offered to send a note to Gordon asking where he/the town is on composting efforts. Kent would be willing to talk to us about their setup. Heidi will bring financials to next month’s meeting. Katie noted that Gordon had wanted efforts to go into increasing home composting efforts.
* Katie - is also preparing a report for the town on energy saving at the school and town

**Section #3 Program Monitoring, active ongoing projects are reviewed by Committee Leads**

* Town Invasive Report Update
  + Deb summed up the Invasive work CCC members have been doing. We are focusing on Japanese knotweed and phragmites.
    - The invasive sub-committee has been working on mapping invasives.
    - We have two non-herbicide pilot projects for phragmites(one at the Lake and one on Cream Hill) that we want to mechanically cut two areas. But unfortunately being over budget we may only be able to try to address one of these areas. Deb is working on this.
  + Invasive of the month posters, Heidi
    - Deb provided and overview of the invasives work
    - Lisa is taking over developing the poster visuals. By next meeting lisa hopes to have a rough draft of what she’s thinking about for visuals
    - We are starting to work with other agencies within the town. We are working with conservation trust and a high school student to map invasives at one of the conservation trust sites
    - Inland wetland commission is now interested in getting involved in this as well.
* Sustainable Land Use Development Presentation
  + Ridgeline protection changing the name to… Katie suggested the term “erosion” be used. We want to rename this maybe: Storm resiliency: Erosion Control, new name not confirmed. Deb suggested folks read the Kent regulations on ridgeline protection and Deb offered to send around the link for Steve Trinkaus’ presentation
  + Heidi asked folks to think about what we want to focus on for next month’s meeting.
* Reminder of upcoming meetings: November 21 – In person
  + How do we want to use the November in person meeting?
  + CACIWIC - It’s November 16th. We have three routes the CC pays, you pay, I pay. I want to use all 3 routes so that anyone who wants to go can. So far Deb, Heidi and Lisa are going.