

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 14, 2019, 7:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM B MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

Subject to approval: Minutes of the Meeting of Jan. 14, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room B - Madison Town Campus

Members present: Co-Chairman Christine Bouchard, Co-Chairman Francis Brady, and Commissioner Rachel Klein.

Members absent: Secretary Alex Cushing, Heather Crawford, and Richard Gedney.

Others present: None.

1. **Call meeting to order:** Co-Chairman Christine Bouchard called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.
2. **Call for additional agenda items:** None.
3. **Application Review:** No new applications as of Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.
4. **CACIWC Annual Meeting Feedback ~ Part 3:** Co-Chairman Bouchard stated that she attended the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) annual meeting, and she discussed the third part of her summary. Topics focused on a number of issues, including University of Connecticut projects involving students in grades nine to 12, who are paired with adult mentors in the community to engage teens in conservation efforts. Teenagers would create their own conservation projects with assistance from adults from their towns; once completed, the projects would be shared statewide. Co-Chairman Bouchard expressed interest in the Conservation Training Partnership, wherein an adult and a teenager go to two workshops and then plan their own project; she asked the Conservation Commission whether anyone might be interested in participating with a Madison teenager. The Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) website, www.nrca.uconn.edu, has information on the projects, according to Co-Chairman Bouchard, and the website shows all the projects that have been done in the state. Madison has not yet had any projects, and Guilford has one project completed, Co-Chairman Bouchard stated. Deadlines for applications differ, depending on the project selected for completion, and the three application deadlines for the three different offerings are April 27, 2019, May 11, 2019, and May 16, 2019, according to Co-Chairman Bouchard. Projects will be completed by March 2020 and then put on display, she stated. Co-Chairman Bouchard stated that she will reach out to the high school ECO Club to see if anyone might be interested.
5. **Lamont's Environment Transition Committee - Feedback and potential implications for Madison:** Co-Chairman Francis Brady stated that he attended Lamont's Environment Transition Committee meeting at Meigs Point, and many state representatives and administrators were in attendance, along with the public. The different subcommittee members verbally presented their findings, and the meeting was taped, according to Co-Chairman Brady. Those interested in viewing the meeting may find it on the Connecticut League of Conservation Builders website, according to Co-Chairman Brady. Goals include positioning Connecticut as a leader in climate change by having carbon pricing; passing the state water plan to ensure water remains a public trust; producing more options for towns to dedicate open space; encouraging composting; curbing nitrogen poisoning in Long Island sound; and improving permitting processes at the state Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection (DEEP). Co-Chairman Brady stated that a viable goal would be to find ways to take advantage of big corporations in the fight to protect the environment, because many want to donate money to worthy causes.

6. **Conservation Commission Officer selection discussion:** Co-Chairman Bouchard stated that the Conservation Commission has to select a chairman, vice chairman and secretary, as officers. Currently Alex Cushing is secretary, and the Co-Chairmen are Christine Bouchard and Francis Brady. Co-Chairman Bouchard stated that she would consider being vice chairman, with Co-Chairman Brady being selected as chairman. Co-Chairman Brady stated that to be chairman would require full support from the Conservation Commission. No vote was taken, and discussion is expected to be continued.

7. **Project/Issue Updates**

~ **Natural Resource Inventory ~ Site walk planning:** The Conservation Commission will meet in the parking lot at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, for a site walk of the Summer Hill property.

~ **Herbicide Use in Roadside Guiderail areas:** No report.

~ **Salt Meadow Invasive Species removal event.** No report.

~ **Single Use Plastics: Update on Shoreline activity and discussion on how Madison can participate.** Co-Chairman Brady stated that a group known as Bring Your Own (BYO) is focusing on grocery bags and town ordinances; Big Y is expected to phase out its use of plastic grocery bags by 2020. Towns which have already enacted ordinances regarding plastic grocery bags or are expected to do so are as follows: Westport, 2009; Greenwich, 2018; Stamford, Weston and Norwalk, 2019; Branford, Guilford, New Haven, West Hartford, and Mansfield, in process. Co-Chairman Brady presented notes indicating the following: State Level—low priority behind carbon credits and water rights; food service is lobbying against it; a Connecticut bill is watered down and weaker than most local wording. In his notes about the BYO Movement's Status in Madison, Co-Chairman Brady presented that Madison is supportive of the idea; Earth Day could include a display and education on BYO; Madison shops could be canvassed about the effort; letters to the editors of various newspapers could be submitted; a letter of support could be written to the Board of Selectmen; and there could be an outreach platform, such as BYO website or Facebook page featuring Madison efforts.

~ **Earth Day 2019 theme and activity – initial planning discussion.** The global theme for April's Earth Day in 2019 is protecting the species. Co-Chairman Bouchard suggested the Conservation Commission continue with its single use plastics theme and connect it to the impact single use plastics have on species and human health. Commissioners were in support of that idea.

8. **Review and approve minutes for December 10, 2018 meeting as submitted.**

Co-Chairman Brady made the motion to approve the Dec. 10, 2018 minutes as submitted; it was seconded by Commissioner Rachel Klein and unanimously approved.

Vote to approve the Dec. 10, 2018 minutes passed, 3-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Co-Chairmen Bouchard and Brady and Commissioner Klein.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

9. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Klein made the motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.; it was seconded by Co-Chairman Brady and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. passed, 3-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Co-Chairmen Bouchard and Brady and Commissioner Klein.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk