

TOWN OF MADISON, CT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
8 Campus Drive, Madison CT 06443
Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023, 7:30PM
Room B

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:35PM. Members present were: Crawford, Cushing and Bouchard. Members absent were: Uddin. Also present: Town Planner Erin Mannix, Amy Thomas, Sanna Stanley.
2. Review and approve minutes from September 22, October 27, and December 22, 2022 meetings: Minutes were discussed. Cushing moved to accept minutes as submitted; Bouchard seconded. Vote to approve was unanimous.
3. Call for additional agenda items/public comment: There were no additional items or public comments.
4. Potential calendar of events for 2023:
 - a. Dark Sky Week, April 17-23: It was noted that Dark Sky week includes Earth Day on April 22 this year and that we should consider how to combine educational messages. Crawford said the banner used previously is too badly damaged to re-use and Stanley (who created the original banner) suggested that photo images could be used to recreate it. While the hanging structure across Route 79 at Route 1 was damaged in a past storm, Mannix said ARPA funds had been approved to repair the structure but that the Town needs to work with DOT to do the installation. The desirability of a similar banner structure in North Madison was discussed briefly. Crawford will contact the Selectmen's office to determine progress regarding banner placement.

Crawford discussed having a Dark Sky display in the library. Stanley said she has done a number of dark sky related presentations and has been approached by the library but not confirmed anything; she suggests they display books and the Nighscape periodical published by the International Dark Sky organization. Crawford suggested collecting pamphlets and will contact the library and the Source about an article on light pollution. Stanley suggested that bits of information should be distributed in the weeks prior. Crawford will share contact information with Stanley. Other distribution ideas included Hand Eco Club, Backpack Express for elementary school parents, First selectman's weekly update, an event at Bauer Park and the

- Madison Public Television station. It was noted that there is currently a link to the International DarkSky Association on the CC website but Crawford will also contact IT about how to upload or link intern videos to the town YouTube playlist. Another idea was to have window painting in the downtown area, similar to the Halloween effort, but linked to Earth Day and/or Dark Sky Week which led to a discussion about the lighting in the downtown center and light pollution concerns.
- b. Earth Day: Green-Up Cleanup and ?: Green Up Cleanup will be held on April 29th according to Austin Hall which makes the sign-in booths a perfect place to publicize No Mow May. Cushing suggested that the town could have a second cleanup day in the fall; Crawford said that could easily be tied to the International Beach Sweeps that take place in September.
 - c. No-Mow May: Crawford has re-established contact with St. Andrews Episcopal Church about working together on No-Mow May. She will have them look at the signs the interns developed before we print them. Mannix suggested giving the digital image to Peggy Lyons for using in her weekly updates; Rita Boland could include it.
 - d. Anti-Idling campaign update: Crawford has obtained permission from the North Madison Congregational Church to post signs in their parking lot. Perhaps other churches could be approached.
 - e. Anything we can tie to other town events?: Crawford reported that the North Madison church is planning a sustainability-type event (community tag sale, plant sale, educational booths) on May 6; she has volunteered to man a booth and can hand out remaining No Mow May signs there. There was discussion about a possible townwide sustainability event on the Green in July where efforts like composting, cloth recycling and others could be promoted and whether this would be something the commission could support and get other commissions/town departments involved in. Initial feedback was that this seems like a good idea.
5. Comments from Town Planner: Mannix reported that the POCD rewrite is moving to the point where they have a basic structure and are getting into deeper discussions. Crawford asked for PZC Chair Snow's contact information. PZC works on the POCD on the first Thursday every month and the consulting firm is present at every meeting. The plan is going to be formatted differently, focusing on the natural and built environments and how town can achieve goals. There will be no separate working committee but they do have a list of stakeholders. Mannix then reported that the River Road tree cutting issues are mostly resolved. Eversource is providing more information about the tree replacement opportunity (3:1 replacement for town trees; open to different varieties based on homeowner feedback).
 6. Comments from the Chair: Crawford will be attending a summit on Housing and Conservation on February 1st in Hartford. Its goal is to bring together land conservation groups and affordable housing advocates. She then reported that the Winter Club site

application to adjust PDD regulations was modified and then continued to next month. She will try to meet with the Hand Eco Club in the next couple weeks and will also discuss what has been discussed with Julie Ainsworth and Peggy Lyons to see what can be moved forward.

7. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Cushing; seconded by Bouchard and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Crawford, Chair

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