

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Sept. 9, 2019, 7:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM B MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

Subject to approval: Minutes of the Meeting of Sept. 9, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room B - Madison Town Campus.

Members present: Chairman Francis Brady, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Alex Cushing, and Commissioner Heather Crawford.

Members absent: Commissioners Rachel Blundon and Richard Gedney.

Others present: Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson.

1. **Call meeting to order:** Chairman Francis Brady called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. He introduced two prospective members, Frank Guarascio and Danielle Butsch, to the Conservation Commission and invited Mr. Guarascio and Ms. Butsch, as well as the Conservation Commissioners, to summarize their backgrounds.

2. **Review and approve minutes for Aug. 12, 2019 meeting as submitted.**

Commissioner Heather Crawford made the motion to accept the Aug. 12, 2019 minutes as submitted; it was seconded by Secretary Alex Cushing and unanimously approved.

Vote to accept the Aug. 12 minutes as submitted passed, 4-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Brady, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Cushing, and Commissioner Crawford.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

3. **Call for additional agenda items:** Chairman Brady wanted to add several items to the agenda: lighting ordinance request; the Women's Club of Madison is looking for a long-term project in the area of conservation; and pollinator pathway.

4. **Update on composting:** Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that The Wharf at Madison Beach Hotel has expressed an interest in composting. In addition, he stated that he met with a couple of members of the school system, and they indicated that the town should pursue food waste collection at Daniel Hand High School, with the composting taking place at Bauer Park. Mr. Anderson stated that he does not believe a permit will be needed to do a composting project in town, but he has reached out to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to see if a permit would be required. Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that the composting project needs to be self-sustaining, and Mr. Anderson agreed. He also expressed a desire to have more than just one school involved in the composting project. Community composting is a category of the Sustainable Connecticut project, for which points are earned.

5. **Project/Issue Updates (20 minutes)**

~ **Sustainable CT Silver Goal for Madison—Project Updates:** Chairman Brady stated that the town is interested in pursuing a silver award for its Sustainable Connecticut projects, this year; Madison has already received the bronze award. The value for the town in becoming involved in Sustainable

Connecticut is that it will enable the town to perpetuate sustainable actions, Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated. Sustainable Connecticut has also opened up a matching grant program, wherein the organization will match, dollar for dollar, a project's need for financing, if a group under takes the task and determines the cost involved.

Watershed Education (Sustainable CT category 2.1): Chairman Brady stated that the interns completed a lot of work on watershed education, and he plans to finish it up. Chairman Brady passed around a sample Madison watershed sign that would be posted. In addition, the interns were asked to get quotes on prices to make the signs, they received two quotes, and plans are to go with the lower bid, according to Chairman Brady. Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that the director of public works and the town engineer should be approached for permission to post the signs. A watershed video, the signs, and the pamphlet, all of which the interns made, should be put on the Conservation Commission website, Chairman Brady stated.

Invasive Species Education and Management (Sustainable CT category 2.10),

Commissioner Crawford: Commissioner Crawford summarized all the projects involved in the invasive species education and management category of Sustainable Connecticut, including educating the public on 21 plant species and insect species, identifying areas where there are invasive species that need to be controlled, further education and outreach work on the topic at the October Bauer Park Festival, and removing invasive species on the North Madison Congregational Church property and changing a church sign so it is illuminated with natural solar lighting, in an effort to reduce lighting to improve dark skies.

Innovation Action (Sustainable CT category 10.1), Create Sustainability

Curriculum for the Madison school district—Vice Chairman Bouchard & Chairman Brady.

Chairman Brady stated that he is still waiting to hear from the schools' superintendent to discuss this idea.

Bauer Park Festival—October 19th: Confirmation on our approach—All: Secretary Cushing stated that the Conservation Commission should continue its educational projects in the areas of having tree cookies, bone shells, native plants, education on dark skies, invasive plants, and using herbicides at home. Commissioner Crawford stated that the festival is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., but the Conservation Commission usually arrives at 10 a.m., to set up.

6. Natural Resources Inventory (20 minutes)

3rd party support update—Chairman Brady: Chairman Brady stated he was still reviewing a quote he received. After a small amount of discussion, it was indicated that Chairman Brady should set aside that quote, because the person who sent it in is more of a specialist than a person who would do the writing.

Confirmation of attendance at the Site walk at Ox Pasture – Saturday Sept. 14th at 12 noon: Conservation Commissioners confirmed their attendance at the 12 noon event.

Discussion on the content for the September 23rd meeting on NRI Narrative writing: Vice Chairman Bouchard and Commissioner Crawford decided to choose the content later.

Proposal and vote to amend the Conservation Commission's "charge" to allow the addition of student liaisons to the commission; agree on the selection process, their roles and the commission's expectations: Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that the Conservation Commission does not need to amend its charge to add student liaisons to the commission—amending the charge would be a Board of Selectmen responsibility, which is not needed in this case. Mr. Anderson proposed that the Conservation Commission take a more informal approach and consider having two students, rather than just one, serve as liaisons, because they could work together.

7. **Lighting Ordinance:** Director of Planning and Economic Development David Anderson stated that a lighting ordinance to encourage the development of dark skies could be proposed to the Planning and Zoning Commission; he stated that he would assist the Conservation Commission to ensure feedback is received from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Enforcement of the ordinance could present a problem, however, that could be part of the discussion, according to Mr. Anderson. Commissioner Crawford stated that she could create a 10 or 15 minute Power Point presentation on the topic, but would need additional time to do so.

8. **Women's Club needs a conservation project:** Chairman Brady stated that he has to meet with the Women's Club soon and needs ideas to take to them. Some ideas include: composting, how the dark skies affect plants and wildlife, and potential solutions to encouraging dark skies.

9. **Pollinator Pathway:** Kelly Brady stated that she is interested in becoming a subcommittee to the Conservation Commission to pursue a pollinator pathway in Madison; she has several people she would like to bring to the subcommittee. Conservation Commissioners appeared interested in having such a subcommittee on that topic.

10. **Adjournment**

Vice Chairman Bouchard made the motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.; it was seconded by Commissioner Crawford and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. passed, 4-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Brady, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Cushing, and Commissioner Crawford.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy