

TOWN OF MADISON, CT  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
8 Campus Drive, Madison CT 06443  
Meeting: Thursday, October 27, 2022, 7:30PM  
**ZOOM**

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to order: Meeting was called to order at 7:30PM. In attendance were Commissioners Bouchard, Crawford, Cushing and Uddin (arrived 7:44pm) and Town Planner Mannix. No members were absent.
2. Review and approve minutes from May 26, June 23, and September 22, 2022 meetings: tabled
3. Call for additional agenda items/public comment: There was public comment from Maureen Lopes who had attended the Madison Climate Change event. She is concerned that she doesn't have a sense of what the town is thinking long-term. She is aware that a good percentage of the town income comes from shoreline property taxes and those properties will not always be around. Commission members agreed and recommended that she get actively involved in the POCD update.
4. Feedback on Climate Change event and Bauer Park Festival
  - a. The Climate Change event went well and the keynote presentation was very informative. Connections were made with a couple new organizations. Fran Brady, the event organizer, plans to follow up with a youth forum.
  - b. The Bauer Park festival had a beautiful day and was very well attended. All the materials were out and there were many interested questions and comments about the various displays.
5. Discuss letter to commission regarding tree cutting on River Road: A letter was sent to the commission by Barbara Yaeger, regarding extensive proposed tree removal along River Road. Town Planner Mannix explained that this was related to efforts by Eversource to improve service to about 3500 units as this is one of their worst-performing circuits in the region. The project was brought to the town's attention in the summer. Mannix indicated the initial information went to the town risk coordinator and the tree warden. Some trees are on rights of way for town property; they must be approved by the tree warden. The new program works directly with property owners to identify trees for removal and offers replanting with smaller trees (less than 30 feet), pollinator plants and shrubs. Mannix indicated the program does not have to go through IWA because Eversource is under

DEEP jurisdiction. There will be a meeting on 10/28 to walk the site with the Eversource representatives, town staff and Ms. Yaeger; Crawford will try to attend.

6. Potential calendar of events for 2022/23:
  - a. Autumn leaf removal outreach: Leaf blowing has already begun. Crawford will try reaching out to Source reporter about proper leaf management such as mulching leaves on-site and not blowing them into wetlands and onto neighbors' properties.
  - b. Christmas trees and sand dunes (discuss with Beach and Rec and Town Engineer?): Town Planner Mannix thinks the proposed dune restoration has been included in the town CIP but is not sure for which year. Crawford will look at the CIP and check with the town engineer.
  - c. Dark Skies Week: April 17-23 are the dates for this event this year. The interns put together posters and flyers this summer but the banner is damaged, as is the hanging system. Mannix indicated that the funding to repair the hanging system has been approved and it will be replaced. Commissioners commented that it would be good to have a similar banner hanging system in North Madison around the circle.
  - d. No-Mow May: Interns created signs and flyers for this event. The commission can hand out pamphlets and signs at the Green-up Cleanup booths. There should also be a newspaper article in April. Crawford will contact Louise from St Andrews who wanted to work with us on this for 2023.
  - e. Anti-Idling campaign update: Some signs were given away at the Bauer Park Festival; people were going to put them up downtown and at OLM. Uddin suggested locations to various people; Crawford is going to ask about putting one at the North Madison Congregational Church.
7. Discuss Madison's POCD update: Town Planner Mannix gave a brief update. The P&Z commission is devoting their first meeting of each month (first Thursday) to the POCD update for the next year. They have hired a consultant who also worked on the town's affordable housing plan. They are looking at the implementation goals from 2013 plan to see what still needs to be done and are hoping to decide on a format at the next meeting (current format of "themes" allows for opposing views and wants to rectify that). They are not likely to have a separate steering committee and will probably begin working on subject matter then reach out to specific groups for participation. They want this to be as public a process as possible.
8. Updates on town projects/grants: food recycling pilot, others?
  - a. Crawford put in a call to Town Manager Rhines about the status of the pilot program. One intern created composting pamphlets and flyers for an existing food composting company but the town project seems to have fallen through the cracks.

- b. Crawford asked Mannix about any affordable housing/subdivision updates. The Wellington project on Cottage Road was planning a fundraiser that was rained out. There is an application for Barberry Farms. IWA deemed it a significant activity and is getting an independent review of the plans; their meeting will open in December.
9. Administrative: update member emails linked to website; plan for 2022-2023 spending; interns' final payments:
  - a. Cassie Morrison (IT) needs to update emails linked to the commission webpage. Mannix will forward her all our emails to be updated.
  - b. Spending – money needs to be saved for interns; proposed \$500 for printing No-Mow lawn signs, \$500 for dark sky lawn signs or banner. All funds must be encumbered by the spring. Regarding signs, Mannix said that Bike Committee had signs made up and got permits to post at heavy traffic intersections. There could also be sandwich boards downtown and at Circle.
10. Comments from Town Planner
  - a. Mannix reported she met with Cecily Baran to walk the controlled burn site at Rockland Preserve and discussed opportunities for funding and future projects like viewing platforms. They are thinking about how to link to Madison's Sustainable CT efforts and will be looking for other organizations to bring in for support, engineering, etc. There was a brief discussion about the potential for development of Madison properties that can only be accessed through Guilford or the abandoned roads in the Preserve.
11. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made by Bouchard, seconded by Uddin. Passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:37PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Crawford, Chair  
Madison Conservation Commission

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