

Windsor Conservation Commission

June 24, 2025

Draft Minutes

Town Council Chambers - Live and Virtual

Present: L. Chayes, B. Robinson, T. Tomcho, C. Yeich, T. Young; ex officio C. Thompson

Absent: S. LeGendre, J. Zepperi

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tammy at 7:00 p.m.

Lea moved to approve the minutes from May 27, seconded by Tammy and accepted unanimously – 5.0.0.

Old Business

i. Compost Bins and Rain Barrels – DPW is ironing out the specifics with other departments regarding a payment voucher system and distribution location. The launch is planned for mid-July; advertising should begin soon. Seventy-five compost and 50 rain barrels are presently stored on Addison Road. Advantageous pricing will be around \$20 per item.

Starter kits/pertinent information on benefits, usage, correct placement, proper material inclusion, etc. should be added as handouts with the products. Of concern, Brad cautioned, is that the rain collection barrel needs to be covered to alleviate mosquito larva.

Lea will stop at the Agricultural Center on Cook Hill Road to request a speaker on this topic for the next meeting at the end of July.

ii. Bird Contest – First and second place winning photos of a Yellow Warbler (1st) and Canada Geese (2nd) appeared on the CC website. There were no Youth entries. The remaining prizes will be saved for the next CC sponsored contest. It was helpful to have the prizes listed in the advertising. A Windsor pool pass, and a rain barrel were suggested as future prizes.

New Business

i. Tree Canopies – DEEP website addresses the uneven distribution of tree canopies in the state. A state-sponsored *Trees for Communities Grant Program* exists along with *GreenSkills* student/young adult crews to plant them. Windsor has many notable trees but may qualify for more street trees. Where are Windsor's deficits? Plan to ID areas at future meetings with the advice and help of the town arborist and tree warden. Tammy will investigate the grant program associated with the above. It would be beneficial to post this information on the CC website.

ii. Farmington River Health & Status – according to the FRWA, the Farmington River, the longest CT River tributary, has been designated as the sixth most endangered river in America due to the outdated Rainbow Dam, managed by Stanley Black & Decker. Blocking fish migration and toxic algae blooms are two of the largest problems. The river also receives leachate from the landfill, which hopefully is monitored by the town. Due to the deleterious condition of the dam, the shad have difficulty climbing the ladder/elevator and few make it to their destination. The Historical Society presented recently on this very topic which can be viewed on its website. Topic to be revisited at subsequent meetings.

iii. Potential Articles & Forums – Advertising strategies. Expanding our presence via news articles; involvement with the schools; adding pertinent information on the CC website; and partnerships with other organizations were among the suggestions.

- Microplastics – the percentage of plastics able to be recycled is diminishing. Science is working on creating plastic that disintegrates in salt water.
- Tim reported that there is a new recycling system at Stop & Shop – redeemable containers can be dropped off at a designated station in the parking lot and then credited to the customer's account. The nips bill did not pass.

iv. Guided Hikes – Matianuck state park hike is postponed due to the concern about turtle nesting. To be rescheduled next fall in collaboration with DEEP.

Two hikes in July – Northwest Park and Windsor Meadows. Brad would like to develop more walks entitled. Open Space Places – walking areas that folks are unaware of. i.e. between Kennedy School and Dudley Town Road. Brad will meet with the intern to discuss the possibilities.

Petitions from Commissioners – Anne's stone will be glued to a slice of granite to ensure stability, safety and pilfering.

- November 15th is the date of the next CACIWC conference – the dues are due.

Brad motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Yeich, Secretary