TOWN OF WINCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town Hall, 338 Main Street, 2nd Floor – Lee Ann LaClaire Room
February 9, 2023 – 5:00PM
Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:
Amanda Hill called the meeting to order at 5:15PM.

2. ROLL CALL:
The following individuals were present: Amanda Hill, Leanne Marvin (5:17PM), Renata Waldron, John Wiarda, Jen Perga, and Willard Platt. Additionally, staff member Lance Hanson was present. Leanne Marvin absent.

3. SUSTAINABLE CT:
Mrs. Hill explained that the Conservation Commission has been assigned category 6.4 and 8 by Town Manager Josh Kelly. Training about Electric Vehicles (EV), charging stations and renewable energy will count toward many of the goals. Paul Young from Juice Bar and Mr. Johnston from Earthlight in Ellington visited the meetings of this commission this past fall. Also, Mr. Wiarda attended an event in Windsor in June of 2022 and at Earthlight in September of 2022. It was agreed that all of the information from this commission will be sent to Mr. Kelly who will upload it. All of this information is due by April 1.

4. “BLACK BEARS AMONGST US”:
Paul Rego, retired DEEP Wildlife Biologist, will speak on March 9th at 7pm. Commissioners will come to Town Hall at 6:30PM to set up rather than of 5PM. The Commission is working to confirm the technology works and that the presentation can be broadcast to people at home. Mrs. Waldron will bring her laptop if we decide to use a Zoom link to broadcast the talk. The Conservation Commission will publicize the event with help from Alan Nero, Terry Hall, Candace Bouchard at Friends of Main Street and local newspapers. The flyer created by Ms. Bouchard is almost ready. We are waiting to hear from Mr. Rego as to whether or not it’s okay to livestream his talk on the YouTube channel.

5. “DESIGNING WITH PLENTY FOR POLLINATORS”
A presentation, Designing with Plenty for Pollinators, has been scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd at 7PM. Karen Bussolini, a professional speaker from Kent, will come to Town Hall to present about pollinator plants. Five groups have agreed to split the $500 fee to hire Ms. Bussolini: Winchester Conservation Commission, Winchester Land Trust, Highland Lake Watershed Association, Norfolk Land Trust, and Northwest Conservation District. Attendees will receive order forms for the Northwest Conservation District native plant sale. Ms. Bouchard is willing to make a flyer for this event, as well. Ms. Hall will generate a Zoom code and one member of this commission will use a laptop to admit people to the Zoom call and face the camera toward the speaker. Ms. Perga will bring a microphone and Mr. Wiarda has a camera. Both can be connected to a laptop.

6. COMPOSTING:
Ms. Perga saw a small-scale composting operation in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She contacted Mr. Rollins who said a small space might be available at Public Works for composting. There is much research to be done before starting anything. The towns of Litchfield and Salisbury are both starting small composting programs at their transfer stations. There may be grants available to help get started through Sustainable CT.
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8. **COMMUNITY GARDEN:**
Mr. Hansen visited the community garden at the top of Wallen’s Hill. Mrs. Marvin suggested that this commission might take a field trip to see the garden. The commission demonstrated interest in learning more about the garden.

9. **THE POND @ TATRO’S PARK:**
Mr. Hansen reported that he has been meeting with the Recreation Board, as well as people interested in cleaning up and improving Tatro’s Park. There is now a “Friends” group with 501c3 status. There is a cleanup day scheduled for February 25th as well as days in March to be ready for the fishing derby in May. The group has plans to open up the area by cutting a few trees and improving/adding parking.

10. **ADJOURN:**
**MOTION:** Mr. Platt, Mr. Wiarda second, to adjourn at 6:00PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Perga