



TOWN OF WINCHESTER – CITY OF WINSTED

Planning and Community Development

Town Hall – 338 Main Street

WINSTED, CONNECTICUT 06098

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May 11, 2023

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:** Amanda Hill called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. The following individuals were present: Amanda Hill, Leanne Marvin, Renata Waldron, John Wiarda, Jen Perga, Willard Platt. Additionally, staff member Lance Hansen was present. Sally Chesney – guest.

2. Agenda Review

Ms. Perga asked to speak about an article in the Rep-Am about “nips” because she had to leave early. The article reported on monies collected from the purchase of “nip bottles” that would be returned to towns in CT. A surcharge of \$.05 is charged per bottle sold and it is returned to the town where the bottle was sold. Winsted is to receive \$41,330 for an 18-month period, according to the article. A friend of Ms. Perga’s suggested that Winsted might pay people who already collect returnables \$.05 for each “nip” they collect. Perhaps a day/time could be set up for bags of nips to be turned in. Commission members wondered where this money is going? Could we use the funds for our cleanups? To fund snacks for volunteers, bags, gloves, etc? Are the nips garbage or recycling?

3.

A - Sustainable CT

Mr. Hansen reported that Winsted earned “Bronze” award from Sustainable CT. To earn “Gold” status, Winsted needs to be a “climate leader.” Commission members were encouraged to review the Sustainable CT binder and return with ideas from the climate section. Mr. Wiarda asked about the status of EV Stations at the Skate Park. Mr. Hansen said he would check in with Jim Rollins.

B - Rain Garden project with Farmington River Watershed Association.

On April 4, Mr. Hansen and Ms. Hill met members of the FRWA, Northwest Conservation District, and HLWA at Resha Beach. Mr. Hansen returned to the site when it was raining to document areas where water is pooling and might be suitable for rain gardens – that would filter the water and allow it to seep into the ground – reducing polluted runoff to Highland Lake. Wooded railings have been installed around the parking lot at Resha Beach. Mr. Rollins will work with FRWA on designs for the area. FRWA will help with funding and obtaining plants. The Conservation Commission will organize volunteers to help with planting when the time comes.

Site visitors also walked to Town-owned land at Hurlbut/Birdsall Streets. The area needs help, as there is a falling down fence, steep slope, water seeping, invasives and people throw trash. How to improve this area? Possible re-site intersection to improve safety?

4. New business:

Second Annual River Clean-up, scheduled for September 23, 2023. Ideas: Ms. Marvin suggested planning areas for cleanup and rating them on difficulty. Ms. Hill suggested somehow measuring waste – weight? number bags? photos? Mr. Platt said that the town collection truck could be run over the scales before and after the cleanup. Ms. Marvin would like to have our River Smart pledge packets to local business owners. Ms. Waldron stated the need for more photos and requiring permission slips. Also, that students be accompanied by parents. Ms. Perga suggested “drop off points” where volunteers could leave bags when filled. Safety cones with labels? Ms. Hill would like to provide receptacles for dangerous trash.

5. Communication - none

6. Other Business - none

7. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Perga and Lance Hansen