



CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022 Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Members present in person in Room 215 of Torrington City Hall unless otherwise noted.

Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Tom Kalinowski, Steven Ivain, and Dan McGuinness.
Via ZOOM: Michael Kaneb
Members Absent: Christine Altman
Staff: Nate Nardi-Cyrus – Assistant City Planner
Members of the public: None

2. Minutes:

a. July 21, 2022 Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dan G., seconded by Steven I. All members voted to approve the minutes.

3. New Business:

a. Fall clean-up planning/prep

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus shared the date of Clean Up The World day event, which will be September 17th, from 9-Noon with lunch provided between 12-1pm. CC will get to Coe Park by 8am to set-up. Tom K offered to put together a clean-up group through the TSB and Center Subaru will have a group at Coe Park between 10-noon. CC members discussed potential clean-up locations including the Sue Grossman Trail, Naugatuck River, and various parks. There will be one more meeting before the clean-up for us to discuss last minute logistics.

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will follow-up on:

- donations by D+D and other restaurants for breakfast and lunch
- drafting a flyer for the event.
- purchasing reusable yard signs to advertise to volunteers
- requesting P&R pick up bags and get roll-away container

4. Old Business:

a. Continued discussion items:

1. Food Forests

Tom K. followed-up with Brett (P&R) on using either Bannon Street or Borzani parks for a food forest, but he did not hear a reply. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus reported back from a conversation with the tree/shrub supplier that he would be running out of materials soon but that he could still supply materials for spring of 2023. Dan M. suggested using the senior center community gardens on Mountain Road as a pilot site this October, where we would only plant a few shrubs, if they are still available. All agreed that was a good idea and Mr. Nardi-Cyrus agreed to follow-up with the supplier and get back to the commission by the next meeting.

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus suggested the commission might want to peruse a more comprehensive and equitable process for selecting food forest sites, including a Community Food Assessment Report. This report would be useful for identifying sites within food deserts and for the city's efforts at achieving sustainable CT certification but would require a significant contribution of the commission's time. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus agreed to share an example of the scope of this project with the group prior to the next meeting.

2. Natural Resources Inventory

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus received the ArcGIS mapping license and will be ready to start working on this project by the fall. Commission members should provide all known reports or data related to natural resources in the city. Dan M. suggested contacting the DEEP, COG, HVA, and NWCD for datasets.

3. City open space parcel inventory and data collection

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus has not yet followed up with Mr. Leifert regarding this project. The commission shared their knowledge and agreed that field visits should resume in October, during the week. Will be a major discussion item on the September agenda.

4. Conservation Commission website page edits and clean-up

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus made updates to the website and suggests commission members review and suggest updates periodically. The commission also agreed that we should work with economic development to promote events (like Sept 17th) using their social media.

5. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.



8-15-22

Nate Nardi-Cyrus, Assistant City Planner
Staff to Conservation Commission
Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office