



## City of Shelton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2022

This meeting was held virtually. Video recording is posted on the Conservation Commission's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UICDXpgOCmI>

**Members Present:** Tom Harbinson (Chair), Bill Dyer, Sheri Dutkanicz, Jim Tate, Ed McCreery, Tom Wilson (arrived 7:10).

**Also Present:** Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:07 pm by Tom Harbinson.

**Meeting Minutes:** **Sheri Dutkanicz made a motion to approve the minutes for April 6, 2022. Seconded by Jim Tate. All were in favor.**

**Natural Resource Manager Report** (Teresa Gallagher):

**Community Service requests:** An unprecedented number of Shelton High School students and their parents were seeking volunteer opportunities in April for the school's May 1 deadline for 10 hours. It appears that most were caught off guard about the requirement this year. Likewise, events that accommodate last-minute students, such as the Housatonic River Cleanup and the Litter Committee's Shelton Lakes cleanup, were scaled back or canceled due to the pandemic. The volume of calls and emails became disruptive, and frustration was expressed by parents and students who were having trouble finding volunteer opportunities. Later in the year, when volunteers are needed for cutting back vegetation, it is then hard to find them because the May 1 deadline has passed. Tom Harbinson suggested contacting the High School.

**Litter Committee:** Clean Sweep 2022 just ended and we ran out of patches. Only 200 patches were ordered for 2022 because of uncertainty over the state of the pandemic. Volunteer of the Year awards will be determined next month. Wells Hollow Creamery adopted Beard Sawmill and Commerce Drive. Shelton received a check for over \$16,000 to be used for litter-related expenses. The funding came from a new state surcharge on nipper bottles. 330,000 nippers were sold in Shelton between October 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. The Litter Committee nominated

about 15 locations for a “Top Ten” list of problem areas in Shelton. An action plan can then be created for addressing these areas.

**Gardens:** A work party was held at Eklund Garden, where half of the deer fencing was repaired with the help of SHS students. Community Garden plots are being planted and equipment replaced as necessary. The native species management area at Birchbank Mountain was sprayed with deer repellent, a work party for garlic mustard removal held, and native bee balm and golden ragwort planted to compete with the invasives.

**Trails:** A site walk at Shelton Lakes with Eversource representatives was scheduled for May 12, and two potential trail reroutes were scouted that would avoid the new tower pads that Eversource plans to build.

**Trails Committee Report:** Bill Dyer summarized the Trails Committee meeting held prior to the Conservation Commission meeting. For details of that meeting, read the Trails Committee meeting minutes. Two work parties were held. More Shelton High School students attended than ever before. Bill Dyer said he was pleased with how the polyurethane turned out at the barn and has spoken with city staff about the electrical work and lighting that needs to be installed. The Trails Committee is working with Allison Menendez of the Community Garden Committee for planting the area next to the barn.

An invitation-only barn celebration is planned for mid-June on a weekday with the exact date not set pending installation of the electricity and lights. Jim Tate asked that the date be set now and invitations sent immediately. Thursday, June 16th at 6:00 pm was selected.

A field walk with Eversource has been scheduled for May 12, raindate May 19, at 9:00, meeting at Constitution Blvd. Tom Harbinson asked that Engineering and Wetlands be informed about the site walk.

**Open Space Issues:** Tom Harbinson said that he was told the purchase of the Wells property off Old Mill Road had not gone through. Commissioners suggested sending a letter to the Mayor to clarify.

Quality of Life List: Commissioners discussed updating the Quality of Life List and contacting property owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm

*Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher and should be considered in draft form until adopted at the next meeting.*