

## MEETING MINUTES

### COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 18 th, 2017 @ 5:30pm

Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER 5:35**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None**
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Karen Kelly, Doug Kelly, Maria Tullman, Jennifer Siskind, Rosemary Senyk, Tom Currier
4. **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **4.1 CT DOT Road Safety Audit update,**

- Andrea Drabicki indicated the Town of Columbia is considering striping bike lanes along Lake Road from Rte 87 to the intersection of Hennequin and Lake Road. The recent CT Road Safety Audit has released a pool of money available for local grants. Andrea D. will provide information to George Murphy and Mark Walter regarding available monies and application requirements. The Town will come up with estimates and follow up with procuring estimates for paint striping.

#### **4.2 Community Connectivity Program / grant opportunities available.**

- No update

#### **4.3 EAC purchase of a Sign / table banner**

- No action to date.

#### **4.4 Pollinators Event wrap up summary discussion.**

- No update

### 5. **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Discussion regarding possible fracking waste ban in Columbia,**

##### **5.1..1 Town Information Meeting discussion/preparation notes**

- Tentative schedule date for July 25, Yeomans Hall
- Presentation will be approximately 45 minutes but that includes time for q&A
- Agenda will be provided before meeting.
- EAC will provide pencils for residents to write questions. EAC will encourage all questions to be held until the end of the presentation to keep meeting in a timely manner.

- EAC will reach out to Town Administrative Assistant Kim Bona to discuss recording the meeting and room setup.
- Have signup sheets for meeting attendees.

### **5.1..2 Columbia and Surrounding Town Outreach.**

- Andrea Drabicki setup an on-line survey for residents to complete. Andrea D. discussed comments from the survey
  1. 38 people have completed survey to-date. Most support the ban while some still have more questions. No one directly opposes the ban.
  2. EAC website has been updated with relevant fracking information. Several public comments have been received. Comments ranged from 'good' to 'too busy'.
- Andrea reached out to Andover for resident support and information,.
- Infusion station is trucking waste to Andover, building an 18-bay station for 18 tanker trucks, injecting the natural gas into the pipeline.
- If a spill happens on the road what do you do?
- Eastern Highlands Health District has no plan for emergency spill response.
- Reach out to Matt Vurtafe (Whindam zoneing enforcement officer who also works with Paula Stahl). Marc Schribner (Whindam Fire Chief ) is also a good resource on spill response.
- Request a letter of support Rick Nassif (Columbia P&Z)
- Request a letter of support Anne Dunnak (Columbia Open Space committee).
- Invite Chief Starkey and FD to information meeting.
- August second Saturday mansfield public library - andrea will attend
- Advertise informational meeting news and date in the Chronical, Hartford Courant, and Reminder News.
- Bryan T. reached out to Hebron Green Committee Lisa Eldridge. Lisa indicated that virtually everyone supported the ban but many had lots of questions needing to be answered. Lisa indicated the following list of concerns by some Hebron residents noted during their public outreach and information sharing/gathering.
  1. Restrictions slows down production of Natural Gas (NG) and NG has benefits over coal, so need to take a little bad with the good.
  2. This topic is blown out of proportion
  3. Chemicals not dangerous (not all chemicals have been reported)
  4. Some people are indifferent and don't want to be bothered with another ordinance.
  5. People want to know more before jumping on-board

## **6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT 6:46**