

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Adella G. Urban Administrative Office Conference Room

Members Present: Andrea Drabicki, Bryan Tarbell, Carole Williamson

Present: Town Administrator, Mark Walter

Members Absent: Carol Coley

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:40

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

3. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS: Ann Dunnak

4. OLD BUSINESS:

4.1 CT DOT Road Safety Audit / Community Connectivity Program Update

- a. CROG is putting together a technical document to define what is a 'complete street'. CROG has urban and suburban definitions. Columbia falls into a rural/suburban area. CROG needs a representative from Columbia and reached out to Andrea Drabicki. Andrea D. reached out to Paula Stahl and will follow up about attending CROG committee meetings.
- b. Andrea has discussed connectivity between Horace Porter / Town Hall to Columbia Lake with Mark Walter and Steve Everett. EAC will support Andrea D. to pursue money/grant possibilities.
- c. Ann Dunnack is in support of pedestrian pathway (either on shoulder of Rte 87 or in a sidewalk in easement area.
 - A sidewalk would require maintenance monies for snow plowing, etc. that would need town approval.
 - Many of the trees that residents were fond of and didn't want removed were actually in decline and were taken down.
 - EAC will need to pull together list of action items to move this item forward.
- d. Anne D. indicated that Mansfield just received Safeway grant monies for public access. Ann attended to hear information relating to Joshua's Trust.
- e. Carole W. indicated that there are other connectivity options (Senior Center to Hennequin Rd. / Rec Park)

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Columbia Lake Invasive Plant Mitigation

- a. Mark Walter provided a Request for Qualifications and Proposals for Invasive Species Control Work.

- Dr. Cortman indicated Greg Bugby the aquatics specialist to look into AIS treatments.
 - Mark W. indicated he would like EAC comments on RFP by next Tuesday.
- b. EAC members agree to continue 2018 meetings on third Tuesday of each month.
- c. Put in writing and 'request a line item for our committee and what we think we're going to spend.
- EAC will also look at fund raising opportunities
- d. Ann D. speaks to energy funding in Connecticut.
- Ann presented an energy packet discussing land use vs. energy production quantities. For example, solar farms require large amounts of open space while coal mining requires little land to produce a comparable amount of energy. Renewable energy siting committee does not have any checks and balances to take land for energy areas?? EAC does not currently have other information to reference this information.
- e. Bryan to send out Sustainable CT e-mail to EAC and Ann

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

6.1 None

7. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM