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VIII. CONSERVATION BUSINESS

1. Introduction of George McGregor, Director of Community Planning and Development

- Mr. McGregor stated that he has over twenty-five years of experience in planning, with his most recent position as Town Planner for Vernon, CT. Before that he was the Planning Director for a city county in Sumter, South Carolina.

2. General Planning Topics

A. Invasive Species

- Chair Winters responded that the Open Space Committee has been in discussion and has suggested focusing on one invasive plant a season to educate the public on its role in the environment.
- Commissioner Campolieta offered it would be effective to do that in order of severity, with the most severe being top priority.
- Chair Winters responded that creating a list of the top five would be good.
- Commissioner Haldeman summarized that the goals are education, a town policy plan, and an action plan for residents
- Chair Winters said that the Board needs to write a letter to the Town and that the priorities are to put links on the website that can educate the public.
- Mr. McGregor asked the Board to send in links to Mr. Hollis so that a list can be compiled.

B. Pollinator Pathways

- Commissioner Campolieta, a member of the Board of Directors for the Pollinator Pathways, stated that the Board's mission is to revitalize the pollinator species and encourage environmental best practices. They encourage businesses, organizations, and residents to plant native species, to avoid non-native ornamentals and invasives, and to remove those that are on their property.
- Chair Winters and Commissioner Campolieta proposed having more weight in the decision making regarding environmental impact in other Boards like Planning, Zoning, and Open Space.

C. Open Space

- Chair Winters stated that there are some meadows that need management and that there needs to be a decision on whether that is intended for the pollinators or the birds. They are looking at the sizes and configurations of

- 92 different available fields and depending on which species they are
93 intended for that will impact the mowing schedule and therefore finances.
94 • Commissioner Haldeman inquired of Chair Winters if the Committee is
95 playing a supportive role or a leadership role in the Open Space
96 Committee deciding this.
97 • Chair Winters responded that the Committee needs to offer best practices
98 education, which the Town is very agreeable to following.
99 • Chair Winters stated that Open Space had created best practices
100 management for organic farming, which would improve the soil. The
101 Town has instituted a five-year rolling basis for the agricultural policy.
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103 **D. Forest Management**

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- 105 • Chair Winters stated that there are invasive species in the forests and
106 wants to explore how as a town it will be addressed and how it will
107 impact the financial budget.
 - 108 • Chair Winters stated that there has been discussion in developing a
109 Simsbury Stewards program that could manage the trails and if anyone
110 on the Committee would be interested in overseeing that.

111 **E. Website Updates**

- 112
- 113 • Chair Winters told Mr. McGregor that the Committee would send him
114 the education-focused links.

115 **F. Discussion of Future Meeting Status (Virtual or In-Person)**

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- 117 • Chair Winters said that when there is an application it would be nice to
118 meet in-person with the applicant
 - 119 • Commissioner Haldeman and Commissioner Levy appreciate the
120 convenience of the technology.
 - 121 • Mr. McGregor stated the Legislature is currently allowing in-person,
122 virtual, and a hybrid, and they will know at the end of the month if it
123 will be continued.
 - 124 • Chair Winters stated that when there is no applicant but a discussion
125 they can meet virtually.

126 **G. Discussion Regarding State Environmental Committee Letter on Invasive 127 Plants**

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129 **MOTION:** Commissioner Campolietta made a motion to sign onto the
130 Letter on Invasive Plants to the State Environmental Committee.
131 Commissioner Levy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
132 Commissioner Bade abstained.
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- Commissioner Bade inquired if there were any analytics performed on the Committee’s webpage to see how effective providing educational resources on it would be.
- Commissioner Campolieta commented that they could maybe have attention brought to them and the information they are adding in the Town’s newsletter.
- Commissioner Levy proposed having booths at town events to raise their visibility with the public.
- Chair Winters encouraged the Committee to look at other town’s Conservation Committee’s websites to see how they are doing with visibility and outreach.

3. Appointment of George McGregor as the Town Wetlands’ Agent

MOTION: Commissioner Campolieta made a motion to appoint George McGregor as the Town Wetland’s Agent. Commissioner Haldeman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Levy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Haldeman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Blaze
Commission Clerk