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**ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante in the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 @ 7:09 PM

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present were Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Dynia, Commissioner Vose, Commissioner Kneiss, Commissioner Cote and Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall .

Absent – Commissioner McGuire.

PUBLIC INPUT – Members of the Public - Roger Alsbaugh, resident of Thompsonville and worked for the town as the Assistant Planner and Steve Cogtella South River Street, resident of Thompsonville down by the river, Pat Gaskell 94 South River Road. It was requested that the Public Input be moved to the bottom of the Agenda. Chair LaPlante stated that as these meetings are somewhat informal, at any time during a discussion the public could provide input and questions can be asked at any time. Commissioner Dynia stated that the reason it is in the beginning is because most people want to come and address something in particular which they can do that and do not have to stay for the entire meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes of May 10, 2016 was made by Commissioner Vose and seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion – passed unanimously – Commissioner Cote abstained - 5/0/1

Open Space Inventory and Referrals: Chair LaPlante reported that the town did obtain quite a few parcels from the recent tax sale, the property on Parsons Road at Bridge Lane and the pieces along Freshwater Brook. They do have to wait six months before they take possession. Somebody bought the piece on Hazard Avenue, the little triangle between George Washington and Middle. There were also some other parcels – Chair LaPlante will get the list and bring it to the next meeting. Commissioner Cote requested we place them on a map for the next meeting.

New applications – IWWA and planning and zoning Commissions: Chair LaPlante requested from staff today on what was coming up and she did not get anything. Elm Street – Old Button Farm - should be coming up this Thursday. They want to change the zone again which was denied last time.

Aquifer Protection: No update.

Archaeological Protection:

a) Shaker Property – Fire Training Facility Update – No update.

6. Special Projects & Targeted Items

A) POCD Implementation Plan

1. Participate in Silvio Conte Refuge planning process – No update
2. Work w/CT DEEP to move Springborn Dam – No update.
3. Educate residents about riparian buffers – No update.
4. Revise open space donation standards – No update.
5. Blueway Trail Development - Hockanum River did a paddle to the Connecticut River to support the CT Blueway trail. Commissioner Dynia reported that the CT DEEP is looking into the Springfield area as it does not comply with the clean water act. They dump raw sewage into the Connecticut River. They are trying to get the federal government to enforce the law. The high e-coli reading from last year in Suffield may have been from that.
6. Identify key scenic overlooks – No update.
7. Promote public access along the Connecticut River – No update.
8. Acquire land/easements along Freshwater Brook for trail development – No update.
9. Review Mancuso Park Master Plan – No update.
10. Invasive species – Commissioner Dynia went to the water monitoring meeting. The water chestnut is a big problem in certain places.
11. Vernal Pool Presentation – On June 29, 2016 @ 7PM in Council Chambers – Chair LaPlante has all notices out to surrounding towns, Somers, Ellington, Suffield, Windsor Locks, East Windsor and Stafford. She will put it on ETV and Commissioner Dynia sent it to the Enfield Press, the JI and the Courant.

Connecticut River Waterfront – Chair LaPlante had been to the Enfield Revitalization Meeting where Marty Levitz made a presentation with an idea that he wants to change the zone there so he can put in housing. The sample he brought forward for revitalization was Cronin's Landing in Waltham, Mass. It is apartments on a river. Chair LaPlante showed the parcels – he said he would like to maybe combine all those properties and do the apartments. In the future potentials area of the POCD what they show is the Connecticut River Greenway Eco Interpretive Center on the Connecticut Water property up on Enfield Street, and a trail coming down and connecting to the Riverfront and the trail going up and down the Riverfront. A question was asked to the people of the audience at the Revite meeting “what do you want on the Riverfront.” Chair LaPlante suggested we need to answer that question and make a presentation to the Enfield Revitalization Committee. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall responded that it should be something like in Glastonbury on the Riverfront but on a smaller scale for the entire community. A general discussion took place with the public and the ECC members making suggestions and offering additional input. The original plan from 1992 has a small amphitheater, restroom facilities, walking, picnic, canoeing. That could be done without changing any existing zoning and will follow the POCD. The list of what the ECC would like is a town (not state) facility with a community building, waterfront amphitheater or band area for entertainment, some type of boat dock, picnic area, walking trail, possible fishing pier, bird watching area, possible museum, interpretative trails and history, educational for school trips, etc. The consultants who worked on this plan advised that it be made a destination first not a make it for corporations or businesses until there are considerable amounts of people who visit on a regular basis. The Connecticut Greenway Committee has some recommendations of waterfront constructs, etc. It was recommended that the property be taken by eminent domain. A report will be done for presentation for Revite and P&Z on how many times the PODC has been looked at by consultants and paid for and gets passed over with every new administration. A subcommittee will work on this report.

Goals and Priority Projects: Work on Connecticut River Waterfront. Tax sale with open space lots. Chair LaPlante will ask Kim to give the ECC a new list with all open spaces and newly acquired open space from the tax sale. Shaker and Elm parcel behind Walgreens (long-term.)

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Chair LaPlante – Connecticut River Watershed – It is their annual meeting – No fee – Burnelles Marina South Hadley MA, Saturday June 25th. Chair LaPlante has a copy of the daily activities.

Liaison Report – Economic Development Commission – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall attended the May 11th and June 8th meetings. The town did get LOTCIP grants \$700,000 to extend the bike path from the 190 bridge to the pond. The location of the bike path is from 190 Bridge, Pearl Street up Franklin to the Route 5 shoulder down the pond. River access grant – This would be from the pond to the Riverfront – reconstruct Riverfront Bridge \$800,000 for bridge work and the Asnuntuck Bridge is still under review due to size issues. Town Councils goals, they have adopted two year goals looking at state budget cuts and proceeding cautiously. Kennedy School upgrades. TIF opportunities – which is tax increment financing zone. Our new town manager has a lot of experience with TIF. There will be a talk at the next EDC meeting about how these zones work. There is possibly a complex of building going into the Hallmark property and the mall may be sold. .

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – Commissioner Dynia reported – They met last night June 13, 2016. East Windsor is having their annual cardboard boat race and rubber duck race on June 26, 2016. E-coli testing has started. \$198.00 from the Watershed to St. Joseph's to do testing in Enfield but it only covers about a months worth of testing. Mike Emmons is going to check with Councilman Bill Lee to see if they could get some additional funding from the Town Council. More money will be needed for testing in July and August. Kirsten is looking for volunteers for Enfield, Commissioner Vose said she would help out. The current locations for Enfield are Powder Hollow, Broad Brook Road and Town Farm Road. Two in Somers, Mill Pond and Durkee Road. Additional testing will be done in East Windsor – according to Kirsten they found some nasty stuff. They are looking to add testing for viruses and other contaminants within the river if they get additional funding. July 16th is tentatively full moon paddle on Mill Pond.

Executive Session: - No Executive Session

Next meeting is Tuesday July 12, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner Kneiss to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion – Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM