

MINUTES
ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, February 14, 2023, 7:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING in the Enfield Room
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

RECEIVED
ENFIELD TOWN CLERK
2023 FEB 21 PM 3:05
Shirley M Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chairman William Cote called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioner Vose took the roll and present were Chairman William Cote, Commissioners Karen LaPlante, Timothy McGuire, Kathleen Vose, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, and Michael Dynia.

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) January 10, 2023

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaPlante, to approve the amended minutes from January 10, 2023.

Discussion: Revise section 7, Unfinished Business from “Chairman Cote, Commissioners LaPlante and Wyzga will be on the subcommittee for A of the table of contents” to “Chairman Cote, Commissioners Vose and Wyzga will be on the subcommittee for A of the table of contents.”

Revise in section 8, after letter d. “Commissioner Kober excused himself from the discussion of Moody Road.” To “Commissioner Kober left the room during the discussion of Moody Road.”

Add: Commissioner Kober returned to the meeting at 9:40 PM

Motion passed by a show of hands 6-0-0 Vote.

4. Public Participation: None

5. Correspondence: Commissioner LaPlante spoke on a document that she received from Nancy on the native trees, regarding what type of trees they would like at Moody Road.

Commissioner LaPlante stated that she is on the email list of Connecticut River Conservancy and the legislative session is in full swing and we know there is an issue with illegal tire dumping and there is proposed legislation on that as well as reducing plastic waste and combating invasive plants.

There will be a meet and greet with the new River Stewart on March 22nd from 5:30 – 7:30 in Middletown.

Commissioner Dynia commented on attending the annual meeting on the Scantic Watershed on January 23rd in South Windsor. They had a guest speaker who was a very good presenter, and learned a lot about water, how it flows and how it affects the community. She spoke about gauges on the Connecticut River and Broad Brook.

They had a Super Bowl hike last Sunday. About 50 people attended. They started on Quality Ave. in Somers into Enfield; it was about an hour and a half hike. He received an interesting call from Dennis Hodgin, he lives on the source of the Scantic River in Stafford, he invited me and whoever I would like to bring to show us around. He has about 200 acres. The race is still on March 25th.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall commented on the Economic Development meeting on February 16th. They discussed the ARPA small business grant program. They gave out 24 grants, and there were 50 applications. They will be discussing round 2, she believes they will consider reducing the amount they can apply for. She discussed Enfield Tax Abatement guidelines. The tax abatement that was given to Winstanley was unpopular in how it was granted. The Economic Commission will be reviewing how this is done so it's done in a more equitable basis.

Chairman Cote stated the subcommittee is Commissioners, Vose, Wyzga and himself. They will start working on geography and geology on the table of contents on the list of natural resources. They have not met yet, but they will try together soon. In the meantime, Chairman has gone on-line to research maps and information. He came up with a few websites. He also went to Kirsten Martin who is on the Scantic River Watershed Association as she is a professor of geology at the University of Hartford. She provided a list of 15-20 websites to go look at for information.

Commissioner LaPlante discussed a map that she has that is possibly from the 1960's that she can share with the Commissioners and she believes it mostly has geology.

Chairman said he brought this up under committees but it's also under Natural Resources under Unfinished Business.

Commissioner LaPlante stated that last night at the POCD meeting in public comments, she said that they should provide the Conservation Commission resources to update their Natural Resource Inventory.

Chairman Cote said we just went through Natural Resources, now about Open Space. He met with Georgie a couple of weeks ago and she is working on creating a map for us on Open Space. As a group I want us to understand what we are asking for and how we want to layer the map.

We have the definition of Open Space, properties with easements, do we include cemeteries, Brainard Park, Hazardville playground? So in conversation with George, the base map will include items or parcels of land listed as open space and other pieces of land given to the town. Then we will add the different layers, so when we look at it we can identify it and will have a hard list of what the properties are.

Commissioner LaPlante indicated that she came up with the Green Plan during her research for the POCD and Brainard Park, which is the copy of the State Green Plan and referenced in the States POCD as one of the additional documents to refer to when doing your POCD and it applies to that. The Green Plan is specifically a comprehensive Open Space acquisition strategy. She read the definition to the Commissioners, "Open space does not mean undeveloped natural land or land with an unofficial passive recreational use. For land to be termed Open Space, it must be preserved or protected for Open Space use." Preserved Open Space is any area of land acquired and is used for Open Space purposes. She went onto reading more from the Green Plan.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion to request that Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Council, Director of Planning for the Town of Enfield and Town Manager that states, State Regulations require that we include the areas of 490 Open Space designation be included in the POCD, seconded by Commissioner Vose.

Motion passed by a show of hands 6-0-0 vote.

6. **Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff:** None

7. **Unfinished Business:**

a.) **List of Natural Resources**

b.) **Open Space**

Chairman Cote stated that in the Open Space Farmland Preservation in Enfield, the book that was created in 1999, there is a section that states recommendations. The recommendation from this book is that the Town of Enfield create an Open Space Committee. The committee is to be made of members of Conservation, Planning and Zoning, Town Council, business people within the community and they are to create a list of spaces. A list that is deemed important. The list and map in this book are the ones that need to be updated.

Chairman Cote re-wrote the letter on Brainard Park that the Commission wants to submit. He brought this back more on POCD Aquifer protection and the escarpment issue and the amount of work that it will take to make Brainard Park viable. Chairman Cote handed out copies of the letter for the Commissioners to review. Chairman Cote stated he is going to try and schedule a few minutes with the Town Manager to discuss the letter that he would like given to the Town Council on Brainard Park. Adding to the letter that it is not only in line with the POCD but also the Green Plan.

Commissioner LaPlante read from the Green Plan regarding the acquisition of land that serves to protect high quality water.

Commissioner LaPlante read her comments to the Commissioners from the POCD meeting on Conservation. The maps were horrendous and illegible, the TIA areas were never discussed by the steering committee, comment on page 38 about expanding 490 open space.

8. **New Business:** None

9. **Next Meeting Date:** March 14, 2023

10. **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dynia.

Motion passed by a show of hands 6-0- Vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9: 18 PM

Prepared by: Recording Secretary, Sandie Barone