

**MINUTES**  
ENFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 – 7:00PM**  
REGULAR MEETING  
Enfield Town Hall – Council Chambers  
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

RECEIVED  
ENFIELD TOWN CLERK  
2022 MAR -2 AM 9:24  
Sharon M. Barber

**Call to Order**

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Higley took the roll and present were Chairman Donna Corbin-Sobinski, Commissioners Kevin Zorda, Virginia Higley, Carrie Howe, Nancy Martin, Robert Hendrickson, and Anne Collins. Absent was Alternate Commissioner Sean Deane.

Also present was Georgienna Driver, Assistant Town Planner.

**Public Participation**

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that there is no one in the audience.

**Agent Comments**

Commissioner Howe stated that the Commissioners cannot discuss anything outside of meetings as this is ex parte communication. Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that they should not be commenting on social media and should forward any emails they receive to Staff. She stated that this also goes for applications that have not yet come before the Commission as well as applications that have been before the Commission in the past.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that she completed her DEEP training and it was a nice refresher course. Ms. Driver instructed the Commission to forward their training certificates to her.

**Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2022**

**Motion:** Commissioner Zorda made motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.

The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

**Votes: 7-0-0**

**Town Attorney Report**

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that the Commission received a Town Attorney report dated February 25, 2022.

money working on it by reaching out to UCONN or another local school to help create it. Ms. Driver stated that they can look into a grant like the Historic District obtained to help offset the costs associated with the guidebook.

The Commission discussed how they can create a restoration plan. Commissioner Zorda suggested that they come up with a fact sheet that shows the amount of wetlands that have been taken away and how much they need to create.

Commissioner Zorda stated that number three is establishing a new wetlands town map. Ms. Driver stated that CRCOG announced they are doing new flyovers, so they hope to have a new regional database soon. She stated that they can also update the wetlands map as new applications come in.

Commissioner Zorda pointed out that they need to identify not only the wetlands but also the value of the wetlands.

Commissioner Zorda stated that the next item is to create a wetlands resource pamphlet, which they already discussed.

Commissioner Zorda stated that item number five is to develop a long term sustainable wetlands program. Ms. Driver stated that she was not able to come up with implementation strategies for this one. Commissioner Zorda stated that determining how much wetlands have been lost and how much they want to get back is helping that long term goal.

Commissioner Hendrickson stated that part of the long term sustainability is a project like the Noble Gas project. Commissioner Zorda stated that people can do this on a small scale, like with a rain garden. The Commission discussed how to tie this into the first strategy with education.

Commissioner Collins asked if they have the old wetlands maps to help determine how many wetlands they have lost, to which Ms. Driver replied that they do and she will have to dig them out. Commissioner Collins stated that she would be interested in helping with the calculations for how much wetlands they have lost since the highway was added.

Commissioner Zorda stated that the next item is to acquire land and/or easements along Freshwater Brook. He stated that this should not be limited to Freshwater Brook. Commissioner Howe stated that the state has programs for permanent conservation easements.

Commissioner Zorda stated that an items he skipped over is to meet the state goal of protected wetlands; Ms. Driver stated that they might be below that percentage but they can modify it to something else such as county.

Commissioner Zorda stated that number eight is to update the wetlands regulations to reflect the new application. Ms. Driver stated that the regulations are pretty much the same, and the only thing that has

changed is case law. The Commission discussed creating a plan to keep it updated, perhaps with a bi-annual review. Additional discussion took place regarding ways to protect the wetlands while also involving and educating the public.

Commissioner Zorda stated that one of the old items is to protect prime agricultural soils from non-rural development and contamination. Ms. Driver stated that the Agricultural Commission addressed this point and have a plan for this goal.

The Commission discussed the process moving forward and discussed how to continue the town-wide monitoring of soil erosion.

Ms. Driver stated that the Commission can incorporate some kinds of cleanup investigations or measures to help with pollution in the water. Commissioner Zorda stated that this would also tie in to educating the residents on the importance of wetlands.

Commissioner Collins asked if they have the ability to target specific parcels of the Freshwater Brook area that are not developed and would be the most useful to keep preserved; the Commission discussed this goal in terms of Freshwater Brook as well as the Scantic River.

Ms. Driver suggested that the Commission coordinate with the Agricultural Commission and Conservation Commission as they do a lot of volunteering around town with the rivers.

Commissioner Zorda stated that they have to look at the town as a whole rather than just one area, as well as the POCD. Commissioner Martin asked if they can speak to the creation of green building standards from the old POCD. She went on to ask if it is a town regulation or state regulation that determines the distance a large building can be constructed from a wetland. Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that it is state regulations. Commissioner Zorda stated that they can impact this, and the Commission discussed whether they can change the 100-foot distance as well as other measures they can take such as energy efficient buildings.

Discussion took place regarding the definition of the POCD and how it is implemented.

**Motion:** Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to continue their discussion of implementation strategies for the POCD.

The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

**Votes: 7-0-0**

**Enforcement Report(s)**

Commissioner Hendrickson asked if they have any update on the Liqueore issue, to which Ms. Driver replied that it is all pending in the courts right now. Commissioner Zorda asked if the silt fencing has been repaired yet, to which Ms. Driver replied that it has not.

**Report of Planning Staff**

Ms. Driver stated that they have enough in the budget to attend the Connecticut Association of Wetlands Scientists. Commissioner Howe asked if it will be recorded for people to watch later if they cannot attend during the work day. Ms. Driver stated that it is a virtual meeting and will probably be posted, but she will find out.

**New Applications to be Received**

Ms. Driver stated that the silt fencing was installed at 1700 King Street. She stated that she has no new applications in the office yet.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to adjourn.

The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

**Votes: 7-0-0**

Prepared by: Elizabeth Bouley

Respectfully Submitted,

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Virginia Higley, Secretary

**Old Business**

- a. **IW# 636- 59 Cottage Road-** Application for a Wetlands Permit to replace the sea wall; David Vesce, Owner/Applicant; Map 80, Lot 180; R-33 Zone. (DoR: 9/21/21)

Commissioner Collins recused herself.

Ms. Driver stated that they reached out to the applicant many times and Staff has had no contact with him. She stated that the application remains incomplete and the applicant is out of extension requests.

**Motion:** Commissioner Howe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to approve IW#636.

Chairman Corbin-Sobinski stated that she will be voting no since it is an incomplete application. The rest of the Commission agreed.

The motion failed with a 0-5-1 vote with Commissioner Martin abstaining.

**Votes: 0-5-1**

- b. **POCD:** Implementation Strategies Review

**Motion:** Commissioner Zorda made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Higley, to remove this item from the table.

The motion passed with a 7-0-0 vote.

**Votes: 7-0-0**

Ms. Driver stated that the new POCD has been delayed by COVID and they hope to have it finished by September. She stated that she provided a nice skeleton for implementation strategies. The Commission went through the goals and implementation strategy items one by one.

Commissioner Zorda stated that their first idea is to educate the public and raise awareness of the wetlands. Ms. Driver stated that she has a draft brochure and is trying to get some relevant information from the State.

Commissioner Hendrickson stated that they can use the library to help with this. Commissioner Howe stated that Darcy Winther at CTDEEP is an excellent resource to help with education. Discussion took place regarding additional educational resources available to the Commission to help raise awareness of the wetlands.

Commissioner Zorda read the second implementation strategy, which he stated is to establish a wetlands restoration plan/creation plan. He stated that they will be looking to create a guidebook and could save