

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, June 9, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante outside at The Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield Connecticut on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 @ 7:22 PM

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall took the roll in Secretary Kathy Vose's absence.

Present - Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Dynia, Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, Commissioner Wyzga, and Commissioner Sacerdote.

Also Present – Karen Timpone Recording Secretary.

Absent – Commissioner Cote, Commissioner Vose, Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Doyle,

Public Participation – None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of February 11, 2020 was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, seconded by Commissioner Sacerdote – No discussion – 4/0/1 – Abstention by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall.

New & Pending applications – IWWA and Planning & Zoning Commissions: Chair LaPlante reported they have continued to meet during the pandemic. IWWA has had some meetings on a proposal for an Assisted Living Facility between Middle Road and Hazard Avenue, they asked for a wetlands re-delineation which was approved with modification. The plans were updated and resubmitted this afternoon to go back to IWWA for the building itself (property development) and then go to Planning and Zoning. Also going to IWWA is a Winstanley wetland application for the development of a large warehouse on the property they own on North Maple Street near Fermi. It was just received today. Will be at the next meeting to accept and then review. Commissioner Wyzga commented that the area for the Assisted Living facility has a lot of wetlands and they have Blair Manor which is closed and close by and why cannot they use that. Her question is why can't they redo an existing facility? As far as the wetlands any extra water will go into the underground storage infiltrators. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall explained as far as using existing facilities the building codes and other codes for those building have probably changed from when the building was built and also from the last time it was remodeled to the point where it is not cost effective to re-model a building for re-use. Most of Enfield's current open space is being taken up by warehouses and building and vacant stores. The Plan of Conservation and Development is being redone now and ECC will have to speak up to push the agenda on saving open space for better parks, etc. The bid opening went out today to five companies to do the POCD. Chair LaPlante did a search on some of the companies. They will also be updating Planning and Zoning Regulations with the same companies.

Community Garden Plan:

At the Farm Summit Chair LaPlante gave the soil report for the Shaker Road site to Kip Kolesinskas who is a soil scientist. His interpretation was that the contamination did not appear to him to be anything to be concerned about. He did send a letter which Chair LaPlante forwarded to Laurie Whitten but has not

heard anything as of yet. Commissioner Dynia suggested that maybe the ECC should get involved in the new Community Gardens that have been done this year. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that they have hired someone to run the program already. There is a challenge to raise money for a matching grant for the current community gardens. They are looking for individuals or Commissions to donate.

Tree Replacement Program –

ECC asked the town to replace a tree every time they take one down for road projects, etc., Chair LaPlante spoke to John Cabibbo and Donald Nunes at Public Works to possibly replace the tree on private property in the area with permission of the home owner. She showed them the Longmeadow tree program and they have a tree management manual (it is on their website for Longmeadow). She asked if they would like ECC to work on the proposal for Town Council or if they want to work on it together. She is awaiting an answer.

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Chair LaPlante stated that the tree has been planted for Commissioner Kneiss. It was bought at Garden Barn. Total price was \$124.42 with tax without tax is \$116.99. A motion to submit the bill to the town for \$116.99 was made by Commissioner Sacerdote, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga. No further discussion – passed unanimously. Chair LaPlante and other Commissioners are watering it daily and asked for help with the watering (it is at the Senior Center).

The POCD has gone out to bid. Planning and Zoning will be reviewing guidelines, etc.

Sustainable Connecticut – Chair LaPlante got an e-mail from Jennifer that they want all information updated as that would help them achieve a better rating. They are trying to obtain Bronze ranking this year. The Town Open Space and Farmland Preservation Plan have not been updated since 1999. They have attached the deliverable list. Chair LaPlante suggested they look at it in September.

Chair LaPlante commented that to the left of the WPCA in Vernon there is a suspension bridge over the Hockanum River which was designed by the Town Engineer but built by volunteers with donations. It connects to the trails. There were plaques explaining the history of the area, Native American activities, wild life, etc. They also had maps with all the hiking trails. Maybe Enfield or the Scantic River Watershed could do something like that for the Scantic.

Hiking trails in Enfield have been busier with the pandemic. Commissioner Dynia showed a pamphlet that the Town of Somers has available for their hiking trails, and suggested that Enfield should produce a pamphlet showing our trails. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall agreed to scan the document and email it to everyone.

Liaison Report – Economic Development Commission – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reported that they now have a facebook page to promote different businesses and to get out info on restaurants that are open for outdoor dining. The Community Garden Challenge is looking for donations. The Cultural Arts Commission is planning on approving a mini-grant of \$500 for the Community Garden Challenge and they were looking for \$250 from each Commission.

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – Commissioner Dynia reported they have had Zoom meetings. The water is really low up and down the river right now. East Windsor is rebuilding some of the bridges that got washed out last fall and winter. Kirsten is starting up the e-coli testing. She may be doing some of the testing out of her house due to limited access to the University Lab. There will be limited testing this year, only one in Enfield probably Powder Hollow. Not sure if there will be a full

moon paddle this year maybe September. If restrictions ease up, it will probably be limited to a certain amount. As of right now, no other activities scheduled this summer. Three members of the Scantic River Watershed including Mike will be going out to the campsite on King's Island on Friday to check it out and report back. He invited Commissioners to go also.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday, July 14, 2020 –

Motion was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Dynia– No discussion – Passed unanimously 5/0/0.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:22 PM