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ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, April 9, 2019

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, April 9, 2019 @ 7:35 PM

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present - Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Cote, Commissioner Vose, Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, Commissioner Wyzga, Commissioner Sacerdote and Commissioner McGuire.

Absent – Commissioner Doyle, Commissioner Dynia and Commissioner Kneiss.

Also Present – Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary

Chair LaPlante introduced the new Commissioner – Lynn Sacerdote - Chair LaPlante empowered her as a voting member at this meeting. She was given a packet including the POCD, bylaws, open space and farmland preservation documents, maps etc.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of Tuesday, March 12, 2019 was made by Commissioner Wyzga and seconded by Commissioner Cote – No discussion – 5/0/2 – Abstentions by Commissioner Cote and Commissioner Sacerdote.

New & Pending applications – IWWA and Planning & Zoning Commissions: Chair LaPlante reported that The IWWA meeting was cancelled. The Planning & Zoning meeting for this Thursday did not have anything for the ECC to discuss. There is an 824 referral for 98 Prospect Street for a conveyance of .81 acre parcel to Kelly Fradet. The Pride Gas Station will be putting in a drive-thru bakery and outdoor patio. AAA is coming back with modifications to the original site plans.

Community Garden Plan: After the soil was tested by Kip Kolesinskas he told the ECC to go ahead and apply for the farmland restoration grant for this project. The ECC will send a letter to the Town Manager with the plan for the Community Garden Plan for approval to apply for the grant as there will be other expenses and in kind services that will be needed from the Town. The ECC has a mission statement for the Community Garden Project which is completed – The next part is the vision statement which would include goals.

Promote Nutrition and Health Food for All -

By offering garden plots to grow nutritious food.

Promote physical activity.

Strengthen Community -

Offer recreational, therapeutic and educational opportunities for people of all ages

Create an environment for people to interact with each other in working on a common goal. .

Build collaborative relationships with government and entities, community organizations and business.

Support Protective Stewardship of the Environment -

Make good use of open space
Protect wild life
Encourage pollinators
Facilitate best practices in gardening to protect the quality of land, soil, air and water.

Provide Educational Opportunities -

Team Building
Workshops
Nurture curiosity and provide hands on learning opportunities for youth and school.

There is approximately 1 to 1 ½ acres that can be used for plots.

Overall Project – Who, what, where, when, why, how and how much? –

The space for community plots, possibly an area for a nursery project for the Town for street trees and shrubs, walking trails, a well (the grant would pay for a well or some type of water) barn, what to do with the barn and a picnic area.

A one to two page project (proposal) needs to be written – Commissioner Cote stated it should say the following – The parcel of property on the corner of Elm and Shaker road, open land owned by the town of Enfield, we propose to create a Community Garden in this area where the residents have access to plots of land to grow vegetables and/or flowers. In addition, we look to develop an area where by the Town of Enfield can plant trees, shrubs and ground cover for town projects. In addition, perhaps a picnic area, there is a barn on the property to restore to use for storing tools and equipment, and walking trails. A list of possible grants and in kind services that would be needed for the project should also be stated.

Next is the Business Plan – A description of the project in detail, list supporting documents on how to start a Community Garden, information from meetings with other towns who have started Community Gardens, government sources, etc., products and services, garden plots, picnic area, walking trails, nursery for trees, shrubs, ground cover, etc.

Location described in detail – outline your plan for how the project would come together, rough layout of the property, where and what we are planning, clearing the land, how much land should be cleared to start out off, timeframe for additional clearing, nursery area, when and where.

Commissioner McGuire suggested that they get application first and get Laurie Whitten on board before going further.

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Chair LaPlante reported – Household Hazardous Waste Day – April 27, 2019 – She asked for volunteers. Hours are 8am until 1pm –

A motion was made by Commissioner Wyzga to bring public participation back as a guest arrived - seconded by Commissioner Cote – Passed unanimously

Public Participation – Chair LaPlante introduced Melissa Everett - Clean Energy Committee - She is trying to get The Town of Enfield to participate in Sustainable Connecticut. She stated that with working with many Town Council there is a lot of support to join Sustainable CT which is a state wide program created by The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities which is by and for towns in consultation and with the Institute for Sustainable Energy at ECSU and with major funder's in the state. It is a very well designed program to learn about sustainable practices. Sustainable CT is at its beginning stages, about 60 towns have joined. As a part of joining there is a rating system that needs to be done. A committee needs to be created, a resolution must be passed and identify the actions that have been taken. Once you are in

it you can go to workshops, meet with other towns for information, etc. There are some planning grants. She believes Enfield has about 140 points of the 200 points needed. Laurie Whitten and the Public Works manager have been getting involved with this. Melissa will probably help with the application. Chair LaPlante asked if the spreadsheet is standard for all towns – Melissa said it is standard but she added a column for what Enfield has done. She asked that the ECC look at the criteria and let her know what Enfield has done in terms of Conservation and Agriculture and share thoughts about what would be doable and what resources may be needed to accomplish that. Chair LaPlante went through the criteria and marked what has been done and what is in the works.

Liaison Report – Economic Development Commission – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reported that the TIF (District) has been adopted and the details are being worked on. It encompasses the mall area and Thompsonville. The meeting time has changed from the last Wednesday of the month at 8am to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – The canoe race was held on March 30, 2019. They had 81 boats with 104 paddlers participate. No novice race this year as there was no safe access point to get out. They are looking into a spot for next year for the novice race.

Executive Session:

A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss open space real estate matters was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall seconded by Commissioner Sacerdote. The ECC went into Executive Session at 9:04 PM. The ECC was out of Executive Session at 9:19 PM. No decisions were made and no votes were taken.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 2019 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Cote to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Vose – No discussion – Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM