

**ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, May 14, 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, May 14, 2019 @ 7:40 PM

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Absent – Commissioner Doyle, Commissioner Dynia Commissioner Kneiss, and Commissioner Cote.

Also Present – Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary

Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Sacerdote as a voting member for this meeting

**Public Participation** – None.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** A motion to accept the minutes of April 9, 2019 was made by Commissioner Wyzga and seconded by Commissioner Vose – No discussion – Approved 6/0/0

**New & Pending applications – IWWA and Planning & Zoning Commissions:**

Chair LaPlante reported that there was nothing pertaining to ECC regarding Planning & Zoning. The AAA garage that is going into the Plaza on Freshwater and Hazard Avenue came back to P&Z for something which was approved. It was downsized from the original application. At the last meeting there was a discussion of a plan on something similar to the Suffield House for different types of elder care, private apartments, assisted living, Alzheimer’s unit, rehab, etc. The current zoning regulations only allow that in a residential zone. Planning & Zoning Commission discussed allowing it in any zone except commercial with a special permit and have made text revisions to allow this type of business in an Industrial zone which could affect farmland. Those revisions were sent to CROG and the Town Attorney. A public hearing will be held. Chair LaPlante asked if the ECC would like to make any comments and will keep an eye on it.

**Community Garden Plan:**

Statement of Purpose (Mission Statement) has been established.

The project is a one page summary – which is only the Community Garden part of the open space which will be taking only 1 to 1 ½ acres of the 10.6 acres of open space on Shaker and Elm. Chair LaPlante asked if this will be a nonprofit organization or will it be run by a “garden” committee, volunteer, part-time employee, etc.? That question should be answered before this is presented. Commissioner Wyzga asked how the other Community Garden in town is run? Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated Park and Rec is running it. In some towns it is run by the ECC. The ECC will try to recommend who they think should run it and if the Thompsonville one is run by Park and Rec they could possibly run this one - or at least part of it. A couple of changes will be made in the first paragraph which Commissioner Sacerdote will e-mail to the ECC. The word tillable will be taken out and may help to get more of the land in usable condition by the restoration grant for a nursery.

1. Once the restoration grant is applied for in 2019 (when) – Grants are up to \$20,000 (how much).

2. When the application is accepted, a plan of conservation needs to be written and FLRP (Kip Kolesinskas) will hopefully help with the plan of conservation.

Commissioner McGuire believes one of the biggest issues is the ECC has to establish the cost estimate.

Cost estimates will be needed for – land clearing, brush hogging, fencing and gate, invasives, well restoration, compost enhancement, soil testing, access road, parking area.

The design will also need to be done.

### **Correspondence All Commissioners:**

Chair LaPlante and Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall went to the South River Street Bridge Replacement and the Connecticut River Access project meeting. The Connecticut River Access project is part of the – getting to the Connecticut River and seeing a scenic view – putting in an overlook. The multipurpose path is coming down Main Street and then will cross Freshwater before it gets to the underpass where they will build a separate bridge for the pathway (bicycle and pedestrian path) it will then go under Asnuntuck Street and then go right back towards South Main and go out to the River to the end of a dead end street where the overlook will be. That project will cost approximately \$800,000. It was a public hearing and council approved it.

Chair LaPlante and Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall also talked to Tom Arone regarding land acquisition down near the Scantic. He told Chair LaPlante to send the information and he put them in touch with the proper people. She also asked about putting in a boat launch along the Scantic and he said to contact Tom Tyler the State Parks Director regarding that.

Chair LaPlante got an e-mail from Laurie Whitten - EPA wetlands region 1 is going to get \$2,600,000 in grants for wetland programs across New England. Chair LaPlante's suggestions were applying for a grant to help with escarpment issues throughout town which could include education, increased regulation by updating IWWA regulations by including protection of the escarpments not within the setback areas, create an engineered plan that would work for multiple homes or scenarios that are losing their backyards to escarpments failure, providing a demonstration project that would show how to mitigate the erosion issue, and/or fixing one of our sites that needs it. She also suggested creating a public outreach campaign to those properties that are or could be affected by the escarpment failure and inform them about the issue, etc. Hopefully they will apply for it. Another possibility for this grant is having the testing done on the Scantic to see find the source of the e-coli. This would have to be a government agency so she passed it onto DEEP. In the past this grant has been used for education purposes for IWWA training statewide by DEEP.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall found Legend & Lore Market Grant Program celebrating history. Does your community have a great piece of Folklore that should be shared? Legends and Lores designed to promote cultural tourism and commemorate legends and folklore as part of cultural heritage. The town would get a sign to place where the story was written and what the story was about. It is available to 501C3 organizations, nonprofit, economic institutions and municipalities within the United States. If anyone has any suggestions please let Chair LaPlante know.

Sustainable Connecticut – Melissa Everett is looking for updates on the Sustainable Connecticut. Chair LaPlante went through the list and anything related to ECC is in need of an update.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if the ECC has heard anything regarding replacement of the Kiosk by the river that was burnt down. Chair LaPlante has not heard anything as of yet and will send an e-mail.

Liaison Report – Economic Development Commission – Economic Development will meet this Thursday at 7 PM and the new meeting day will be the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. The subject has been the TIF and looking to work on another TIF for Hazardville/Scitico area.

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – No update.

**Adjournment:** Next meeting is Tuesday June 11, 2019 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Vose – No discussion – Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55 PM