

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday January, 11 2022

A Virtual Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Bill Cote on
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 8:43 PM

Roll Call

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Also Present – Georgie Driver – Staff and Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of December 14, 2021 was made by Commissioner LaPlante, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall – No discussion – 7/0/2 – abstentions by Commissioner Vose and Commissioner Kober.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaPlante to move Special Guest Nelson Terreso Urban Forestry Grant to item 4 before public participation on the agenda – seconded by Commissioner Wyzga – passed unanimously

Chair LaPlante stated the original plan for the Urban Forestry Grant was to do something at Elm and Shaker on the open space. Unfortunately, once the meeting was set up with the state coordinator for the grant, they felt they were not ready for that. The grant applications come in very distinct and have a lot of planning involved, where, how and what they are going plant. There is no plan on that property and should be a goal going forward for that piece of property. They decided to go to High Street and Central and planting trees in the approved areas for this Urban Grant proposal. A lot of the trees were lost in the microburst over the last few years. It was suggested they go for the smaller grant. Commissioner LaPlante and Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall went to the space and took pictures. Commissioner LaPlante then met with Martin McGuane of McGuane Landscaping who is an Arborist to help pick out trees and where and if they can plant them between the sidewalk and the street, or street and curb, etc. He is looking at that. Nelson Terreso of Economic Development said he has been talking to the Urban Forestry Coordinator and this is a program that is funded by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. They seek proposals from 501C nonprofits, or municipalities toward urban forest activities related to climate change and related to equality in environmental justice. The coordinator stressed they take a look at the last round of what other communities have been getting. It is geared toward climate change, energy efficiency, assisting in putting in a tree canopy toward neighborhoods really in need of it. The area of High Street and Central is an underserved area, it is in need of a facelift in regards to putting a new tree canopy in. It is a maximum grant amount of \$37,000 and requires a 25% local match. It can be in-kind services which can be for installation of the trees or even a partnership with the local stakeholder for a maintenance plan to make sure that the property owners commit to maintaining the trees. There must be a plan. There will be reporting requirements and follow up with the State. There is a person from UCONN who comes in and provides oversight on this as well. The Arborist will help choose the trees for the locations they suit it best. He would like to get a letter of commitment from the property owners to maintain and water the trees to insure they survive for the first few growing seasons. The ECC will have to endorse and go before Town Council for this one and for more in the future. This grant is due

February 2, 2022. He would like to have a work plan, a budget, and a list of materials from the Arborist. Georgie is going to assist with the grant application. Georgie stated that this is a great spot as it is supported by the POCD, future vision for downtown Enfield, the future train station and start turning the area into a more walkable neighborhood so the increase in tree canopy would really help. The Town of Enfield Conservation Commission will be the applicant on the grant. Chair LaPlante mentioned that Beautification Committee has a budget and looks to give funds to projects like this. Nelson suggested that the stakeholders possibly attend a meeting regarding this - maybe the next ECC meeting. Because of the right of way it looks like these will be planted on private properties. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reached out to the commercial property owners that just purchased 110 High Street and they seem to be onboard. He would like to get a letter composed for the property owners outlining what needs to be done in the first few growing seasons to insure the health of the trees and asked Commissioners LaPlante and Pfeifer-Hall to get that info from the landscaping company. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked to have a site plan which Georgie will work on. Georgie has the map for High and is waiting for Central. Commissioner McGuire suggested that they put into the grant the first growing season of maintenance by the McGuane Landscaping to insure the health of the trees in the first season. This will be discussed with McGuane when he is preparing the work plan. Commissioner LaPlante asked Commissioner Wyzga if the Garden Club would give a letter of support and she will look into this. Nelson is looking for a letter from the ECC for a letter of support as the applicant endorsing this project. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion to do a letter of support for the application and the Chairperson sign it, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga - no discussion – passed unanimously.

Public Participation – None

Correspondence - None

Approval of Invoices or other financial matters - None.

Reports of Officers Committees and Staff – None.

Unfinished Business –

POCD – The next meeting is January 19, 2022 – Georgie will be attending. She will be presenting the goals and ideas from the ECC and EAC as well as some wetlands goals and then will discuss with the commissions the implementation strategies which can wait until next ECC and EAC – Commissioner Cote suggested tabling until next meeting – Commissioner LaPlante would like to add into the POCD the 490 open space properties. Georgie will add it in and revise the goals.

Subcommittee Update -

Urban Forestry Grant as above.

New Business -

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

George explained the new application for an approximately 800,000 sq ft. distribution facility on Bacon Road by Winstanley with associated site improvements such as roads that connect from the front parcel to the back of the new parcel, new parking, new landscaping and wetlands areas to contain storm water runoff. Georgie did read the wetland report and the staff report is on the website. An environmental firm did breakdown the wetlands on site. They mapped about 7 wetland areas, all very minimal impacts

except for the farm pond. It was manmade and will be filled in. There is a Site Plan Review application before P&Z which is not a public hearing and as of right now the application satisfies all zoning regulations. It would be up to the P&Z Commission if there is to be a public hearing. Commissioner LaPlante stated that it would be in the public's interest to have a public hearing.

Commissioner LaPlante asked Georgie for an update on North Street. It was approved with 8 site specific conditions. Bonds will be required and a new site plan showing new wetlands delineation – a map amendment application. There is an ongoing law suit.

Commissioner Dynia asked about the map of the Scantic River and Open Space of the State Parks in Enfield. Georgie will look into this.

Georgie stated the new GIS is almost ready to go public with all new layers and hopefully will happen in the next couple of months.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday February 8, 2022 –

Motion was made by Commissioner LaPlante seconded by Commissioner Kober to adjourn seconded by Commissioner – No discussion – Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:38 pm