

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday March 8, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Bill Cote in the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ 8:15 PM

Roll Call

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Absent – Commissioner Sacerdote

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

Public Participation – None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of February 8, 2022 was made by Commissioner LaPlante, seconded by Commissioner Kober – No discussion – passed unanimously 8/0/0

Correspondence: None.

Approval of Invoices, or other Financial Matters – None.

Reports of Officers, Committees and Staff - Georgie will ask Laurie what the process for trying to get a new kiosk down by the River.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reported that Economic Development met on February 17th. There is a new member Steven Ragnouth who owns the Stevie's Little Store. There may be some changes with the Commission getting some additional duties – possibly regarding abatements. They will look at other communities to see what their guidelines are. They will determine each month if a meeting is necessary and if not instead of going to quarterly meeting, they will skip one month, etc. Commissioner Kober stated that the new Town Manager would like to get the Commissions more involved to take the burden off of staff. Commissioner LaPlante asked if a Cost of Service study that other towns have done is something that EDC can do. She stated there are formulas out there to do it. Commissioner Kober stated that some of the land in the new Winstanley project behind Spruceland will be donated to the town of approximately 22 acres which abuts current town-owned open space.

Commissioner Dynia reported on the Scantic River Watershed – They had the Superbowl hike on Superbowl Sunday. They moved it to Stocker's 454 Hazard Avenue trail because Powder Hollow was iced in. There had approximately 15 to 20 people. The Spring Splash is back this year after a two year break due to COVID. It is on March 26th. They are looking for volunteers. The first in-person meeting is for the Scantic River Watershed is Wednesday March 9, 2022 at the Power Hollow Brewery. Kirsten is working on some grants for testing. She needs money for a particular piece of equipment (\$6,000) for the E-Coli testing. They will go in front of the Town Council for help with some grant money for the testing and to maintain the trails.

Unfinished Business:

POCD –

Goals – Flood control Initiatives – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall said there is money for homes that have been impacted multiple times with flood insurance claims and are removed for that reason (which are climate change issues.) They will word it differently, more diplomatically. Chair Cote suggested the wording be, acquire FEMA funds and other funding grants to acquire flood prone properties for flood control within the Town of Enfield. This may be put under climate change along with tree replacement program, and Culvert restoration.

Meet the state percentage of open space – 21% (may be up to 23%) and can we make it in 10 years? As of right now there is about 1,000 acres and to get up to 21% would be 3,948 acres.

Partner with the Land Trust - should read “Northern Connecticut” Land Trust and increase amount of open space available to public use and preserve natural resources and to establish a list that is important to the town (wetlands, open space, etc.) should be all together under open space - # 5/8/9 goals. Commissioner Dynia stated that there should be an inventory of our natural resources and open space in Enfield and make that a goal of the ECC. He stated the ECC should be able to come up with the list of natural resources.

Commissioner Wyzga stated that the ECC has had opportunities in the past for open space but it never seems to get accomplished. Georgie stated to keep doing what you are doing and keep working on the POCD goals and implementations.

The ECC would like to see an open space program passed by the Town Council and Chair Cote asked how do they convince the Town Council to enact an open space program? Georgie stated that she spoke to the Town Manager and she is willing to work with the ECC/EAC to get this done.

Georgie said that #2 Culvert Restorations has been addressed by IWWA.

Georgie will make all these changes.

Commissioner LaPlante discussed the steps for an Open Space Ordinance which is in the 490 book. How to adopt a PA490 Open Space Classification and who is eligible?

1. Land must be recommended for preservation as open space in the Town’s POCD by the Town’s Planning Commission. The ECC will send a request to Georgie to be put on the agenda at the meeting.

2. Land included in areas recommended for open space may be identified by geographic location and/or map in the POCD (in the old POCD it set aside the SE section of town.) It should be available anywhere in town.

3. Geographic areas designated as being recommended for open space in the POCD must be approved by the legislative authority within the municipality.

4. The municipality adopts an Open Space Assessment Ordinance which stipulates the qualification criteria for the open space classification in that municipality. The criteria will establish the minimal acreage as well as requiring that the land be completely unimproved and undeveloped.

The ECC will look at other towns similar to Enfield to see what their criteria is and try to follow that. Commissioners LaPlante gave the breakdown of parcels of land in Enfield that could qualify as open space some with building and some without. Georgie will do some research from other towns for the ECC to come up with a draft of the ordinance and then a checklist to review. This will be put on the ECC agenda for the next meeting.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, 2021 –

Motion was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Kober – No discussion – Passed unanimously 8/0/0.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:19 PM