

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

A Regular Virtual Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 7:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Absent – Commissioner McGuire

Also Present – Laurie Whitten – Director Development Services and Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary.

Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Kober as a voting member for this meeting.

Public Participation – None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of February 9, 2021 was made by Commissioner Vose and seconded by Commissioner Dynia - No discussion – 7/0/1 – abstention by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall.

New & Pending applications – IWWA and Planning & Zoning Commissions: IWWA has not had a meeting. Laurie stated that have one application pending for the Jarmoc barn on Moody Road. Savannah Nicole Villalba is no longer working for the Town. She went to the City of Hartford Planning Office. Laurie will be the wetlands agent until a new person is hired. Laurie stated Planning & Zoning has rezone request from business regional to business general for a vacant parcel along Elm Street next to Hannoush Jewelers but is actually on the mall grounds, 95 Elm Street Chicago Sams for the outside dining patio, 9 Overhill Drive to accommodate a breezeway and garage, 604 Enfield Street Namco Pools (overhead door for deliveries) Extension request for Tarnow Nursery, and some administrative approvals one is the basketball court at Alcorn, a nail salon, Phantom Fireworks. Chair LaPlante asked for clarification on the text amendment change to allow private farmer’s market in industrial zones. Laurie explained that it is for a Winter’s Farmers Market inside the Old Hallmark building. Some markets are also for inside and some are for all year long (check under the Planning and Zoning website for particulars.)

Discussion on Tree Replacement Program – Chair LaPlante reported that there is not too much interest in doing a Town-wide Town Council Approved Tree Replacement Program even in a roads project. This was based on a discussion she had with one of the Town Council Members. She discussed maybe bringing it to Planning & Zoning first as a recommendation for certain native noninvasive trees or make it part of the POCD and to move into something along those lines. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall was asked about the trees on Enfield Street in the Historic District and whether they were going to be replaced. She believes there is interest in a program like this. Possibly getting the Beautification Committee to help support this and possibly do a publication of “approved trees” for the area. There was a consensus among the Commissioners to go forward with this. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall also stated that this could help the residents of Enfield to pick the choose trees and bushes that are native to the area.

Commissioner Vose and Commissioner Wyzga will get together to go over invasives and come up with a list of trees and large shrubs that should not be planted. Commissioner Vose has some websites to go through regarding invasives.

POCD Update: The first meeting with the steering committee is on March 17, 2021.

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Chair LaPlante shared a video of a large bobcat walking in her area and a second video of two bobcats.

Commissioner Dynia reported the Connecticut River Conservancy has some informational (zoom) activities to participate in. On March 10th a hydropower coffee hour – March 31st at noon Tales from the Trial - exploring CT rivers paddlers' trails, March 22nd World Water day – another zoom meeting – check out the website they are free but you have to register to attend. He also reported that many trees in East Windsor going to the Reservoir were taken down and residents are complaining as they were not informed.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that Springfield is going to be putting 3 new waste pipes under the River. Flood control will be decreased through repurposing the old pump station. It will start later this spring and go into 2023.

Liaison Report – Economic Development Commission – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reported that they are going from 15 to 9 members and will get the By-laws done and will then go before the Town Council for approval. Enfield Square has been selling off pieces of property. Laurie stated that the DOT will be giving a presentation regarding the plan, funding, etc., to the Town Council on March 15th.

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – Commissioner Dynia reported – The meetings have been moved to the end of the month. Since the Splash has been cancelled for the second year they will need to do some fundraisers this year. Possibly a kayak raffle and some other summer fundraisers. The E-coli testing will begin at the end of May and go until Labor Day. They have been going out on the hiking trails about once a week. Some of the pine trees have been coming down which had to be moved. Commissioner Cote said some cleanup on Bailey Road needs to be done. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if there was any thought to replacing some of the benches that were destroyed at the Enfield/Somers line on the loop. Commissioner Dynia stated there has been no talk about the benches yet. Unfortunately, people destroy them or steal them. Their main focus is to get the trails cleared and opened for the season. They will be new signs on the Enfield/Somers line. They have not heard anything on the grant yet from the Conservancy. There is a grant for open space for trails from the State of Connecticut and the deadline has been pushed to July 1st.

Fishing season has started the Governor opened up fishing season early – some stock (Mill pond) but will follow the normal pattern for stocking (Scantic River).

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall shared that Tyler Anderson who is a chef/restaurant owner in Simsbury Millwright is starting farm to table and will have his own farm in Avon and is looking for someone with 5 years farming experience to run the farm.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday April 13, 2021 –

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:27 PM