

MINUTES
ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023-7:30PM

RECEIVED
ENFIELD TOWN CLERK
2023 MAR 21 PM 2:19
Sheila M Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chairman William Cote called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioner Vose took the roll and present were Chairman William Cote, Commissioners Karen LaPlante, Timothy McGuire, Kathleen Vose, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Phil Kober, Nancy Wyzga, and Michael Dynia.

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) February 14, 2023

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dynia, to approve the minutes from February 14, 2023.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion to withdraw the motion to approve the minutes from February 14, 2023.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a motion to table the approval of the minutes from February 14, 2023, until next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dynia.

Motion passed by 7-0-0 vote.

4. Public Participation: None

5. Correspondence: None

6. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff: Commissioner Dynia stated that the Scantic Watershed Association met at the end of February through Zoom meeting. He said the meeting went well and Kristen discussed her work with the Town of Somers and setting up the education program. The Scantic Spring Splash is coming up on March 25th. They received a \$2500 grant from the Town of Enfield, not from the ARPA funds but from the regular budget. They have the race coming up and they are not doing the fund raiser before the race. They are still looking for volunteers to come and help with the race. Commissioner Vose volunteered to work selling the T-shirts.

Chairman Cote shared that the \$2500 is not on the annual budget but rather it was requested and submitted by Carl Sampson.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that Economic Development was supposed to have a meeting but it got canceled. There was a meeting after the last Conservation Commission meeting and they started reviewing another round of ARPA grant applications.

Commissioner Kober stated he attended the last Economic Development meeting and the ARPA grant application process was on the agenda and the discussion of an advisory guidance on tax abatement for property.

7. Unfinished Business:

a.) List of Natural Resources

Chairman Cote stated that he met with Kathy and Nancy to discuss the list of natural resources and they had a productive meeting. Nancy is working on geography and Kathy and Chairman Cote are working on geology and general information.

Chairman Cote shared his screen with the Commissioners which showed a map of geology for Connecticut and Enfield is in green. Also a narrative on the history of Enfield. The second document Chairman Cote shared on his screen was a list of websites on geology, geography, and general information.

Commissioner LaPlante stated she has a map dated 1946, its like a topography map, this is the United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey. So it might have been before the USGS, but it has all the geology.

b.) Open Space

Commissioner Cote stated under section b.) open space he thought of discussing not necessarily the POCD but rather the fact that the 490 open space needs to be in the POCD.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall suggested a short letter that states 490 open space needs to be mentioned in the POCD so the town can have an ordinance that has an option for the 490 open space to be part of the tax abatement program. Also this letter should be presented at the meeting.

Commissioner McGuire suggested using the wording in the Open Space farm book for the short letter.

Commissioner McGuire shared with the Commissioners that pertaining to the equipment exemption that farmers can claim \$100,000 worth of farm equipment. The farmers received a statement from the assessors saying the exemption was being eliminated or denied. The farmers were eventually told after talking with some representatives that the letter was a clerical error.

Commissioner Cote asked Georgie if she has had a chance in creating the map. She stated that she did start it but the GIS crashed and hasn't been able to edit any of the layers.

8. New Business: Brainard Park, nothing new yet to report.

9. Next Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

10. Adjournment:

Commissioner Kober made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga.

Motion passed by 7-0- 0 vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM