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ENFIELD TOWN CLERK

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Sheila M Bailey

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 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, June 14, 2022 @ 8:18 PM

Roll Call

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

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 April 12, 2022 was made by Commissioner LaPlante, seconded by Commissioner Kober. No discussion – 6/0/2 abstentions by Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Wyzga.

Correspondence - Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall brought in an article from the Hartford Courant dated Tuesday June 14, 2022. The headline is Conservation versus Sprawl. The state will not reach its goal of preserving 673,210 acres by 2023. It talks about sprawl and basically why the state set these goals that in the 60's when people started leaving our cities and moving into the country and development was helter-skelter. It talks about zoning and smart growth but that the state POCD basically does not have any "teeth" and it is really advisory in nature.

Commissioner LaPlante reported on a press release from June 8, 2022. Governor Lamont announces 7.5 million in state grants to preserve 1,013 acres of open space and renewed greenspaces in urban areas. 17 communities got some funding under the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Program and under the Urban Green and Community Garden Grant program. Communities included Bozrah, Montville, East Haddam, East Hampton, Portland, Killingworth, Madison, Oxford, Redding, Salisbury, Sharon, Southbury, Stamford, Wallingford Willington, Wilton, Winchester, Groton, Killingly, New Haven, Waterbury, and Windham. She did give Commissioner Cote a copy of the next round which is due in September. She thinks it is another 7.5 million dollar grant. These grants can be used for farmland but there must be some sort of public access. The ECC feels they cannot make the September deadline but possibly next June. They want to present it to Nelson Tereso and see what he says. The ECC does have a property in mind. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if the ECC should partner with a land trust. The ECC will work on the purchase and then turn it over to the land trust to manage. Commissioner Cote will talk to Nelson first to see if it can move forward.

Commissioner LaPlante reported that they planted the trees from the Urban Forestry Grant and it was a fun day. The town has been watering them. The neighbors in the area were very happy.

Reports of Officers, Committees and Staff: Commissioner Dynia reported on the Scantic River Watershed. They have their meetings the last Monday of the month which have been zoom meetings. They started the e-coli testing and so far so good. On June 5th, the East Windsor Group had a hike as part of the Connecticut Trails Day. It was a small crowd about 14 people and they used the same trail. They

are working on another trail which is one that goes off the bridge. They are planning in full moon paddle in either July or August. They also discussed starting up the scholarship again.

Economic Development – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reported they have a meeting coming up this Thursday and last month’s meeting was cancelled.

Unfinished Business: A motion to add to the agenda a discussion on ECC ByLaws was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall and passed unanimously. Georgie updated the EAC ByLaws as well as the ECC ByLaws. Georgie reported that a cover page was added to the new ECC ByLaws as the old one did not have a cover page. The other change is going from Roman Numerals to Sections and changing the margins to make them standard which will have EAC and ECC ByLaws consistent in formatting. In Article 3 - The ECC should be maintained by the office of The Department of Planning and Community Development – it now reads The Planning Department. Article 4 next page – same as EAC regarding resignation letters will go to the Town Clerk who will then forward to the Town Manager’s office. Article 8 - There a bold that says Director of Planning which is now crossed out to say Town Manager’s Office - and one misspelling in Article 14 will be corrected. Commissioner LaPlante stated that in Article 8 - The meeting time is 7PM and this will be changed to read 7:30 PM. A motion was made to accept the new ByLaws with the changes made as discussed by Commissioner Wyzga and seconded by Commissioner Kober - 8/0/0.

Commissioner Kober made a motion to add the 490 open space ordinance letter to Town Council to Unfinished Business for discussion – seconded by Commissioner LaPlante - 8/0/0

Chair Cote read through the original letter as written, but this was after the BAA’s report. They were rather critical of the way the reevaluation went in the Town of Enfield. He took the original letter and based it on the BAA’s report regarding the reevaluation being flawed and enlightening - but they would like to add the PA-490 open space ordinance. They will take out of the letter woodland and it will read open space. Commissioner Kober will go through the draft letter and re-write it. He will email to all Commissioners once it is done.

New Business: Commissioner Dynia asked about the new gas station on Elm and Shaker being stopped. It has not been stopped. Georgie said they only got approval to clear the land. They still have the have the preconstruction meeting which they are trying to get together now. Georgie reported The Felician Sisters made a zone change and will not be changing anything in the historic district. They will be building 3 buildings behind the current building, All open space in the front is staying. The back part will be rezoned to SDD which is special development. They are proposing senior housing and no age restricted housing. They will be using the front entrance for emergency access only. As of right now it is a zone change but when they get the actual application she told the ECC they can comment or write a letter. The public hearing for the zone change is June 30, 2022. There is a public meeting on Wednesday June 15, 2022 at 6:15 PM in the Senior Center open to all they as they are looking for feedback.

Commissioner LaPlante stated the POCD meeting will be at June 15, 2022. Georgie stated it should be done by September but was not happy to see that most of the comments from the ECC and other Commissions were not in the new POCD. She reported they commented that they want to keep it simple.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday, July 12, 2022 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Dynia to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Kober – No discussion – Passed unanimously 8/0/0

Meeting adjourned @ 9:06 PM