

MINUTES

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special MEETING in the Thompsonville Room
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082
Tuesday, September 12, 2023-7:30 PM

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2023 SEP 26 AM 9:35

Sheila M Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chair William Cote called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, and Nancy Wyzga.

Members Absent: Commissioner Michael Dynia

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) July 11, 2023

Commissioner Wyzga made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from July 11, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Vose.

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0 vote.

Discussion: Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall said that under approval of minutes it should read made a motion to approve the minutes, not make a motion to continue the minutes.

4. Public Communications: Jim Okonis said that along with his brothers they own property on Bailey Road that abuts the Scantic River and would like to know how to sell it. They are looking for ideas on how to sell it. Chair Cote said that they can take his offer and present it to the Town.

5. Correspondence: Commissioner LaPlante said she was looking on the CRCOG website for grants and she came across a grant flyer which she shared with the Commissioners. Commissioner LaPlante handed out a pamphlet from Ellington, a "Snapshot on Open Space" and she also discussed an email she received from CACIWC on save the date, November 11, 2023.

6. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff: Chair Cote said the Scantic River Committee did not have a meeting in August but they did have the Moonlight Paddle with about 65-70 boats.

7. Unfinished Business:

a.) List of Natural Resources- Chair Cote said he has put the list together but needs to read through it. There is still some more work to be done.

b.) Open Space-. The Commissioners discussed a donated piece of property that was to be used as open space but is now being used as a pumping station.

c.) Open Space Ordinance- Chair Cote said that he and Commissioner LaPlante had a meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the Ordinance and get it clear and leave no room for interpretation. Chair

Cote shared the dialog of this meeting and shared an email from the Town Manager regarding the wording for the Ordinance with the Commissioners.

8. New Business:

a.) Nathan Hale- Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall said that at the public hearing about Nathan Hale she voiced her concerns and feels the Town should retain this property for open space. However, they are setting it up for a zone change so they can sell it. In her opinion, they do not have enough open space and park land. Commissioner LaPlante said they want to change it to BL zone and she read the regulation and what can be put on this zone. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, read from the Town Managers Facebook page what was written about the proposed Nathan Hale development.

The Commissioners discussed what they should do regarding Nathan Hale. They discussed going to the public hearing on Thursday, September 14, 2023, either to make comments or generate a letter and submit.

Commissioner LaPlante will generate the letter, send it to the Commissioners for review and present it to the Planning and Zoning Board at the Public Hearing on Thursday, September 14, 2023.

9. Election of Officers: Commissioner LaPlante made a motion to elect Bill Cote as Chair, Karen LaPlante as Vice Chair, Kathy Vose as Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall.

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0 vote.

10. Review of By-Laws: Continued until next meeting on October 10, 2023

11. Next Meeting Date: October 10, 2023

12. Adjournment:

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

Motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0 vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Prepared by: Recording Secretary, Sandie Barone

