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ENFIELD TOWN CLERK

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

2022 OCT 18 AM 9:14

Sheila M Bailey

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, October 11, 2022 @ 7:50 PM

Roll Call

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Absent – Commissioner Sacerdote and Commissioner McGuire

Also Present – Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of September 13, 2022 was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga – Discussion - Commissioner Kober pointed out that the Conservation Commission minutes of September 13, 2022 was not sent out to the Commission until earlier today. The Commission has not had ample time to review them prior to arriving to this meeting. Commissioner Cote also wanted to note that the June ECC minutes have not been posted as of today. Commissioner Kober stated there was a typographical error on the back page on line 5 – Great Brook should be Grape. With amendment noted the vote was 5/0/2 with abstentions by Chair Cote and Commissioner Dynia.

Commissioner Kober asked to add item 3b discussing the approval of the minutes for the regular meeting of July 12, 2022, seconded by Commissioner LaPlante – passed unanimously 7/0/0. A motion to accept the minutes of July 12, 2022 was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga – Discussion – Commissioner Kober pointed out that these minutes were also not sent out in a timely manner. They are now posted on the website. Commissioner Cote stated that the July minutes were not available at the September meeting and they were given to the Commissioners today, October 11, 2022, and the July meeting minutes are stamped as October 3, 2022. The July 12, 2022 minutes are accepted, 7/0/0.

Public Participation – None.

Correspondence - Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked Chair Cote if he could find out how the Commissioners can access the internet so they can use laptops or other devices during the meetings in order to do research and/or for discussions, as well as audio visual support. Commissioner LaPlante stated they received an email regarding CACIWC annual conference on October 29, 2022. It was a short timeframe but Commissioner Dynia and Commissioner Vose have signed up. Commissioner Dynia got a confirming email, Commissioner Vose has not. Commissioner Vose will resend her email tomorrow. Commissioner Wyzga will respond as she would like to attend. Commissioner LaPlante got a notice from Kirsten from the water shed that St. Joseph's University is doing a presentation on the Conservation Corps. It is Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 2 pm at Mercy Hall Crystal Room, West Hartford.

Commissioner Dynia saw in the paper that the Conservation Commission of Vernon sponsored an invertebrate study – maybe something to do in the future.

Reports of Officers, Committees and Staff: Commissioner Kober stated the new application for George Washington and Brainard went through IWWA. No public hearing. There were a couple of members who did a site walk and it was approved at the most recent IWWA meeting. It is now going forward to P&Z. Commissioner LaPlante asked if there were any wetland issues or any significant impact areas that they put conditions on. Commissioner Kober stated it went through with standard conditions. The applicant had a wetlands mitigation plan. There are wetlands being disturbed. There will be a manmade wetland at the south part of the property.

Unfinished Business:

POCD –

Commissioner LaPlante stated there was a joint meeting with P&Z which she was not able to attend but the steering committee has been disbanded. The document was basically completely rewritten from August to September and the first they saw it was in mid-September in the format they presented to P&Z. She suggested the Commissioners read all the open space and conservation parts. The executive summary has all the strategies for improvement. Conservation has 4 items - 21% open space conservation – set 21% of Enfield’s total land area as the goal for protected open space which matches the state of Connecticut’s goals. Expand PA-490 benefits for open space protection. Expand open space not simply agriculture. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that there is a couple of hundred acres at the prison which is in preservation and that needs to be pointed out as it is not in the map and removed from special development district that encompasses the prison properties. From Moody road down to the railroad tracks between Shaker and Moody is considered TIA-B which is a corporate campus and this TIA represents the business professional zoning districts. Areas that have large corporate campuses are areas that are best positioned for mixed use development. Including both multifamily, residential, commercial office, and possibly hospitality uses. Multifamily residential can be allowed as freestanding when co-located with commercial uses or a standalone residential to replace the commercial uses. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if the Shaker House that is that area is a national register property. Commissioner LaPlante does not think it is. The other corporate campus area is at exit 49 office park (the other Mass mutual campus) including the hotel and up to Brainard Park. There is one map for open space and farmland. When asked about if there would be printed copies of the final POCD it did not sound like there would be printed copies. It will be up to P&Z to make any further revisions. Georgie will still be able to make revisions if the ECC has comments to make/change. Commissioner LaPlante thinks there are also two public hearing required – one at the Town Council level and one at the P&Z level. Commissioner LaPlante will forward the September 23, 2022 version to all commissioners,

Chair Cote stated that one the directives of the ECC is to create a list of open space properties. He asked Georgie about the GIS and it is still not fully functional. She will get back to him with an update as to when they might be able to expect to get that list. Commissioner LaPlante will recreate a list she had on undeveloped land which she is working on. Chair Cote would like to give them that list to compare to their list.

In the July meeting, ECC also discussed creating natural resource inventory list. Chair Cote asked how does the ECC go about doing that. Commissioner Dynia suggested they look at other town’s commissions that have done it. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall said Bolton did it a while back and got an award for it. How would it be broken out? Chair Cote believes this is an important job for the ECC to do. Chair Cote will look into this for the next meeting.

For the next meeting agenda under unfinished business the POCD will remain, they will add GIS (map of open space), 490 open space ordinance, and natural resource inventory.

New Business –

Commissioner Kober said a couple of members of the town delegation and state reps went to East Windsor and did another rail trail walk. It seems that is not dead yet.

Liaison Report – Economic Development Commission – Commissioner Kober reported there have been no new meetings. There is a subcommittee working on the ARPA funds and applications are currently open for ARPA small business grant program for up to \$50,000 for a project. It opened in October and will close November 18th. Applications need to be mailed in or dropped off at the office of Community Development. They will be doing the review and recommendations which will then be forwarded to Town Council for approval.

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – Commissioner Dynia reported they had the September meeting. The full moon paddle was very successful about 45 canoes/kayaks. They also had source to sea cleanup about 15 people which is smaller than normal. USA Hauling coordinated it and picked up all the trash. There were a lot of nips picked up. Kirsten did a class with JFK. DEEP recently stocked the Scantic with trout for fall.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Wednesday November 9, 2022 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Kober to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall – No discussion – Passed unanimously 7/0/0

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55 PM