

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

A Regular Virtual Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 @ 8:17 PM

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Also Present – Laurie Whitten – Director Development Services, Georgie Driver – Staff and Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary

Public Participation – None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of April 13, 2021 was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga, No discussion – 6/0/3 abstentions by Commissioner Vose, Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Dynia.

POCD Update – Items of Concern and Importance for our Commission - Georgie Driver gave out a packet of the 2011 POCD – Chair LaPlante talked about the public POCD meeting – There were a lot of questions on open space and farmland preservation, commercial, etc. One of the questions was do you want more or less development in Enfield. It was leaning just barely over the line to more development but just a little more development. Another question does Enfield have too much residential development or too much commercial development. There were a lot of neutral answers but only four people that said too much commercial- two people said too much residential. Do you want more residential or more commercial development in Enfield and it was pretty close to the center. Does Enfield need more or less preserved open space - 4 people were in the neutral position, 2 people said less open space and 11 people said more open space. There were about 30 people in the meeting. Do you want more agricultural preservation or open space preservation – 5 people were neutral – 4 people said more agriculture - 8 people that said more open space. Do you want open space to be more passive (no facilities or more active – walking, bike trails, playgrounds, etc.) 2 people said more passive everyone else said more active. Are you willing to pay more taxes for passive or active open space – 4 people neutral and all the rest said pay more for active. Everyone but 1 thought housing in Enfield was affordable. What is more important more development or more land preservation – 8 people neutral, 3 people just over neutral to the more development side, 5 people on the right of the more land preservation side and 2 that wanted more preservation. Do you want more or less public access to the Connecticut and Scantic Rivers? 1 neutral and the rest were more public access.

Georgie sent the packet for the 2011 POCD and asked to start with our goals for 2021 POCD. She explained that the ECC could keep the objective from 2011, enhance them or write new ones. She went over a few of them.

The town of Enfield will support activities, projects, and land use regulations that restore the ecological functions of aquatic resources. Silvio Conte -

Educate town residents about the benefits regarding Riparian buffers

CT and Scantic Rivers – maintain high quality local water resources
Review land use zoning regulation to protect water quality
Promotion of water protection management practices for agricultural uses
Develop a local climate change action plan
Create green buildings standards
Making multi-trail network, promoting public access along the CT River
She asked the ECC to read it come up with what would like to see – email it to her and she will put it together.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall shared some information from the public POCD meeting regarding open space along the Scantic and escarpments. The Chairman of Planning & Zoning made it clear that he was not going to be in favor of the Town taking any open space that included escarpments along the Scantic River or anywhere else. She thinks that is a mistake and those are important land features that need to be preserved and protected. For residential developments near this almost every home owner dumps yard waste and other waste and that is what degrades the escarpments. Commissioner Cote stated the protection of the Scantic River and escarpments needs to be in the 2021 POCD.

Conservation Budget Discussions - No increase in budget - but Laurie was able to put some wish list items in.

Unfinished Business

Discussion of A New Park and Trails Map - No update on this – Chair LaPlante sent it to Park and Rec but no information has come forward. Commissioner Cote will try to get some information.

New & Pending applications – IWWA and Planning & Zoning Commissions: Nothing new for ECC

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Commissioner Dynia stated that President Biden has an ambitious plan to preserve more land (25 to 30%) across the country.

Liaison Report - Scantic River Watershed Association – Commissioner Dynia reported they will be starting the e-coli testing around Memorial Day. Same areas they did last year, Powder Hollow and a couple of extra spots in Enfield. In Somers they have a couple of extra spots. They may be doing some testing in Hamden, MA. A letter for Rail to Trail initiative in Enfield was sent out by Carl to Carol Hall, Tom Arnone, The Town Manager and the Mayor. Chair LaPlante reported that the DEEP is going to be at the Town Council Meeting on Monday to talk about the Scantic. Commissioner Dynia stated that there will be a meeting on Monday June 7, 2020 with the Town Council and DOT regarding Rails to Trails. Carol Hall is also holding a meeting at the Enfield High School on May 24, 2020 regarding Rails to Trails.

Chair LaPlante reported Waterlandlife.org did a project for Red buds over Pittsburg – planting Red Bud trees for people to go visit (ie., cherry blossoms in DC) They do different conservation projects. Tree vitalize Pittsburg and the Western PA Conservancy had a hand in it. The ECC would like to see this for Enfield and Laurie suggested that they put this on the POCD list of goals for Enfield.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday, June 8, 2021 –

A motion was made by Commissioner Wyzga to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion – Passed unanimously – Meeting adjourned @ 9:06 pm