

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante in the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday July 13, 2021 @ 8:04 PM

Fire Evacuation Announcement

Roll Call

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Absent – Commissioner Cote and Commissioner Dynia

Also Present – Georgie Driver – Staff and Karen Timpone – Recording Secretary

Chair LaPlante empower Commissioner Kober as a voting member for this meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of June 8, 2021 was made by Commissioner Sacerdote and seconded by Commissioner Wyzga, No discussion – 6/0/1 abstention by Commissioner McGuire.

Public Participation – None

Unfinished Business – POCD Update

Chair LaPlante asked for everyone's ideas – Commissioner Vose discussed trees with so many taken down recently and some have come down due to storms – she would like to see a concentration on getting more trees. There are several associations that will help. The Arbor Day Foundation has several ideas, suggestions, education of what trees provide and programs. Chair LaPlante shared some information on the Oak Tree and what its benefits are. It is one of the trees that creates habitat for thousands of critters, nesting birds, acorns, etc. This was written by Doug Tallamy. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if they could ask Planning and Zoning to encourage planting of native species of trees. Commissioner Sacerdote asked if they could encourage Planning and Zoning to adopt a Tree Plan. Chair LaPlante would like to see in the POCD - Preserve and protect viable and healthy established trees on development applications. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that it is up to IWWA and Planning and Zoning to enforce this on new applications. They would also like to have a certain percentage of native trees planted on new developments. Commissioner McGuire stated they should not put a specific number/percentage - he suggested they encourage the preservation and retention of native and established species and encourage new planting to be native on new developments. Commissioner Wyzga stated that there are too many "words" in the current POCD and would like to see less. She came up with three goal ideas - The quality of our natural resources in wetlands – which would include keeping established trees as stated above. Increase the inventory of conservation land. Collaborate with Town Commissions, State and Local Conservation Environmental Agencies and build further from these goals. Commissioner Kober would like to see encouragement of active and passive recreation, nature walks, rail trail, hiking trails, Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall said in page 34 – the single biggest problem in Enfield is flooding of the

brooks, streams, etc. FEMA does have programs where the town can work with them to buy properties that have been flooded multiple times. There were recently homes flooded on Lynch Terrace. Chair LaPlante shared some open space areas in Enfield, some is totally protected and some is not in public ownership and can be sold and developed. Unless there are deed restrictions a property can be sold to develop. There are some conservation easements but not too many as it is hard to enforce. The ECC asked Georgie if they could get an updated map on deed restricted open space and presumed open space owned by the town.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated the most important issue is to partner with the Land Trust. She feels the town is not able to police and maintain open space. Any new properties should be defined with the Land Trust and deed the property to the Land Trust, and some existing town owned properties should be deeded to them as well.

Chair LaPlante's goals - Preserve more open space on the Connecticut River, provide public access and amenities for hiking, fishing, bird watching and observation facilities. If this is in place when land along the riverfront is developed these goals will have to be met by the developer.

Preserve and protect the town's natural resources the rivers, streams, ponds, vernal pools, floodplains, wetlands, aquifers, escarpments, and slopes.

Protect residents from floodings,

She passed around an open space map from 2017 – there are some areas that have disappeared off the map. Georgie said it may have been mapped differently but still there.

Commissioner Vose asked about CT sustainability and is that part of the POCD – climate change – where trees will help.

Rails to Trails – Commissioner Vose reported that she went to the meeting. She said they have a year more lease. To try to do rail and trail they need 25ft which they do not have.

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Chair LaPlante sent out the notice that the CT River Conservancy was going to be doing a hike along the Windsor Locks trail on Thursday July 15, 2021. You have to register to attend.

The ECC did apply for the Neighborhood Assistance Act. They asked for \$53,000 for open space acquisition. The Neighborhood Assistance Act is a way for Connecticut Corporations to target 80% of their corporate income taxes to a specific project that are approved under the Neighborhood Assistance Act. If too many apply they percentage it down. She asked that the ECC send letters to all utilities in town at minimum and some other large corporations. Three organizations in town got approved. The Hazardville Institute of Conservancy (and for energy efficiency 100% funded). The Opera house players and our program for open space acquisition were approved. The money must be pledged by a certain date in order to get the tax credit.

Commissioner Wyzga asked about the pamphlets for the Scantic trails to distribute to people and what the cost would be. Chair LaPlante said that Park and Rec will print it but ECC has to do the work for the pamphlet.

She also reported on the blue bird boxes. They do have birds some are swallows and some are some sort of blue bird at the library but not sure what type yet. The boxes will need to be adjusted down next spring as the bluebirds like shorter heights.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday, September 14, 2021 –

Motion was made by Commissioner Sacerdote to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Kober – No discussion – Passed unanimously 7/0/0

Meeting adjourned @ 9:05 PM