

ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

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 12, 2021 @ 8:46 PM

Roll Call

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Absent – Commissioner Kober

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

Public Participation – None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of Tuesday, September 14, 2021 was made by Commissioner LaPlante, seconded by Commissioner Vose – No discussion – 6/0/2 – Abstentions by Commissioner Sacerdote and Commissioner Wyzga.

Correspondence: Commissioner LaPlante sent Nelson Tereso an email regarding some information he was looking for on The Glastonbury Riverfront project. She forwarded all the info she had and the last was an article about them getting a \$12,000 grant for planting Sycamore trees along the banks of the Connecticut River for a legacy tree walk. She was wondering if the DEEP offers the Urban Forestry Grants and if we can take advantage of that to help replant some trees we have lost to storms over the last few years. He looked into it and he said there is current a grant program available through the Connecticut Urban Forest Council. The program name is the Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants Program and the grant is for up to \$37,000 and requires a 25% match. Town in-kind services can serve as the 25% match. There are two rounds of grant applications the first is due to November 3, 2021 and the second round is February 7, 2022. ECC can be able to make the second round. Program has been created by The CT DEEP and we should be eligible for this grant as we are an environment justice community and we have been impacted by climate change (flooding). Another idea would be to utilize this grant program to fund a tree program for the new Higgins Park. He will provide technical support for the ECC on an application. Commissioner LaPlante looked into it further and there is a 7 page request for proposals. It is part of the America the Beautiful -Yes We Can Program. You have to be a municipality or 501C3 nonprofit. There is a list of the towns that qualify. Enfield is not one of them but there are two areas in which can qualify for the program in. The Freshwater Pond area and the area just to the west of Enfield Street is almost all covered and it goes all the way to down to Bridge Lane. Enfield Square Freshwater Blvd to South Road is also a piece. The final review has four focus areas. Urban forestry goals is 25 points, climate change goals 25 points, equity and environmental justice goals is 25 points and community involvement, communications efforts and ongoing stewardship is 25 points. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall recommended the area of High Street and Central Street. The ECC decided to have a subcommittee work on this project/grant. The three will be - Commissioner Sacerdote, Commissioner LaPlante and Commissioner Vose. They will discuss who will plant the trees, what type of trees and where they will be planted. A

motion to establish the Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant Committee was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall and seconded by Commissioner Wyzga – No discussion – unanimous 8/0/0

Commissioner Dynia reported that the last Town Council meeting Laurie Whitten mentioned that there is trail along the Connecticut River looking for a grant for a nonprofit to secure the grant. He did email her that the Scantic River Watershed Association might be willing to sponsor the trail. They are a certified nonprofit group but he has not heard anything as of yet. Chair Cote will be meeting with Laurie and will discuss it with her. Georgie requested a cc for this type of correspondence to Laurie, as she may be able to help also.

Georgie gave out a copy of an email she received from Jessica Demar Connecticut Water Company Coordinator – Green SnowPro workshop - participants will be able to explain the environmental impact of chlorides on the environment infrastructure, describe best practices for maintenance of facilities and equipment before, during and after storms, discuss the importance of calibration and pretreatment in winter operations. You can register with UCONN \$100 for state and municipal participants and \$200 for private sector. It is an online class and in person.

Commissioner LaPlante asked about CACIWC. Georgie checked into it. It is November 6th and is virtual. Keynote speaker is a hydrologist from NOAA.

Commissioner LaPlante has an article regarding why should we leave the leaves - which talks about leaving the leaves on your lawn.

Commissioner Dynia read a report about paying for trash as you go. There are plants that are closing. Towns have saved money by going with this type of program. You have to buy certain trash bags.

Review of the Bylaws: The ECC will review them and discuss at the next meeting. There is a time for a 7 pm start and this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Approval of invoices or other financial matters: Chair Cote asked what is in our budget to pay for CACIWC if anyone wants to attend. Georgie has discussed this with Laurie but does not have an answer. Chair Cote will discuss this with Laurie. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if IWWA has money to attend CACIWC and some slots are available, can ECC use the slots?

Reports of officers, committees and staff: None

Unfinished Business:

POCD – Georgie reviewed the comments made at the last meeting -

Flood control, take some houses down, see if there are FEMA funds available and identify and acquire flood prone properties, try to meet the state standard of open space, work with the freshwater pond dam, River protect for flooding, culvert restoration, impact on climate change initiatives, look at existing town properties for other uses, partner with the Landtrust to preserve and purchase, reevaluate zoning regulation for climate change impacts, community garden opportunities, tree replacement program, increase amount of open space available to public use, trails and preserve natural resources to establish a list that is important to the town. Georgie will e-mail this to ECC to make any last minute changes or additions before she presents it.

New Business:

Liaison to the Economic Development Commission has been Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall from the ECC – Commissioner Cote asked her opinion of the Commission – She stated it has been evolving and

interesting with the new Chairman. They used to meet in the morning and now they meet in the evening and a lot of people could not come, so they are down to about 9 members. The discussions are about how to promote and encourage business growth in Enfield. Commissioner LaPlante made a motion to keep Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall as the Liaison to the Economic Development Commission, seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion – passed unanimously 8/0/0.

Scantic River Watershed - Commissioner Dynia reported there was a meeting at the end of September. They reviewed the testing with Kirsten. She uses some sort of device for testing the E-Coli and that is broken. It is \$6500 for a replacement. She will have to get donations or grant money for the replacement. On some of the trails in East Windsor the bridges got wiped out again because of flooding. They want to get out to Kings Island (possibly next week) to check it but the water has been too high on the Connecticut River. They have been maintaining the trails. They are trying to set a date by the end of the year to try to have the brochure of the trails printed up by the town. Commissioner LaPlante reported that there were some solid dirt balls (compacted sediment) that came down the river after the heavy rains and she took them to Kirsten to have them tested. No report as of yet.

Georgie has an IWWA application to present to the ECC for 30 and 32 Bacon Road – This is for 2 parcels to construct three new building on the parcels known as 30 and 32 Bacon Road both covered in wetland soils. One is 2400 sq. ft. office building and then 2 - 4,800 sq. ft. warehouse buildings This application is coming before the agency because it includes an anticipated wetlands disturbance of 4,207 sq. ft. and replication of approximately of 4,300 sq. ft. Anticipated construction is between Fall of 2021 and Fall of 2022. Public sewer connection is available for this project. There are five proposed wetland bio retention areas. The first retention area is 1260 sq. ft. the second is 947 sq. ft. both areas are located in the front of the parcel. The third retention area is 497 sq. ft. located in the front of the second proposed building to the left. The fourth is 945 sq. ft located on the left back side of the second proposed building and the fifth is 651 sq. ft. located by the right side of the third proposed building in the back property. Site plan sheet C-1.1 explains the erosion and sedimentation control plan. The project proposes to disturb approximately .9 acres of wooded area with the site topography sloping northeast and southeast away from the Bacon Road. Approximately 1.10 acres will be disturbed by the project which includes the clearing of woodland, wetlands, stripping, stockpiling and removal of existing topsoil. She continued to review the proposed project for the ECC. She also had some storm water reports for the ECC to review. The ECC's comments are that there is a negative impact on the wetlands and it is going to have a negative impact on flood storage retention, fragmentation of the wetlands. Is there a study on the wildlife, vernal pools? They would like to see documentation and substantiation on no specialized habitat, etc. The IWWA meeting is Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Commissioner Cote will compose a letter.

The ECC will also comment on the North Street project.

Adjournment: Next meeting is Tuesday November 9, 2021 –

Motion was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Sacerdote – No discussion – 8/0/0 Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 PM