

Minutes revised 1/18/2023 due to scrivener's error.
Email appended to these minutes.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD, 1/18/2023 04:10pm
ATTEST Sheila Bailey

TOWN CLERK

MINUTES
ENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, January 10, 2023, 7:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING in the Enfield Room
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

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ENFIELD TOWN CLERK

2023 JAN 17 PH 3:08

Sheila M Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chairman William Cote called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioner Vose took the roll and present were Chairman William Cote, Commissioners Karen LaPlante, Timothy McGuire, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Michael Dynia, and Phil Kober.

Also in attendance, Georgianna Driver, Asst. Town Planner and Sandie Barone, recording secretary.

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) December 13, 2022

Commissioner Kober made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga, to approve the minutes from December 13, 2022.

Discussion: Commissioner Dynia, made a comment on the correction that was made on the minutes with regards to what he said at the November meeting. He stated that it wasn't DEEP but could be Agricultural Extension or Agricultural Station.

Correction: remove "and" from the following sentence.

"There was someone from the Department of Agriculture which goes **and** to different lakes and ponds for sample of invasives" Commissioner McGuire believes he meant to say DEEP.

Motion Passed 4-0-3 Vote

4. Public Participation: Steven Cogtella, of 2 South River Street, stated that he wanted to discuss the South River Street Bridge replacement project. He is in favor of the bridge project but not in favor of property acquisition. He sent out an email to the members of the Commission as well as the two liaisons. He would like to see that proper environmental protocol is put in place for this project. He refers to a waste storage area 20 feet from his home and 100 feet from Freshwater Brook. The waste storage area can hold 500 cubic yards of contaminated soil. His goal is to reach out to this Commission that an appropriate protocol is put in place, maintained, and monitored. He doesn't have much faith that the town will handle this appropriately without some type of oversight because he was never informed about this, it was never in the original plans, also he feels that this Commission did not know about it until he provided the 210 report. This report was not provided to the Wetlands Commission when they applied for the application.

After he sent the email out to the Commission, he received an email response from Ms. Whitten, that the Commission was copied on, the email stated it was inappropriate for him to reach out to the Commission. He was told he needs to take up his concerns with staff in the Town, the staff will then communicate these concerns to the Commission or he speak under public participation.

Ms. Driver reiterated that public participation is informative and not a dialog.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a comment about how informal meetings have been in the past and how the Commission has encouraged the community to talk to them.

Commissioner LaPlante agrees with Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall.

Chairman Cote, states that they are not there to discuss Laurie's response but rather to listen to the public's concern with this project. Mr. Cote stated that he asked the members of the Commission if they had any questions, prior to the meeting.

Commission Pfeifer-Hall asked Georgie a question about the Wetlands application process. Ms. Driver suggested adding an item to the agenda for discussion. Ms. Driver informs the Commission that every town Commission has the same procedures where the public shares their concerns with the Commission and the Commission takes these issues and concerns under advisement. Any communication you receive outside of the Commission is considered ex-parte because if the matter ever came back before the commission, it could lead to predetermination and biased opinions. Any communication needs to be disclosed.

Ms. Driver informs the Commission that the bridge project did get approval from Wetlands, and state approval from multiple authorities.

There was back and forth discussion between members of the Commission, Ms. Driver, and the public reiterating what was previously said.

5. Correspondence: Commissioner LaPlante read the email from Mr. Cogtella into the record.

Commissioner Kober made a motion to waive the reading of the correspondence and add it to the minutes seconded by Commissioner Dynia.

Motion passed by a show of hands 7-0-0 Vote.

Connecticut State of the Birds report is available from the Audubon Society.

Federal funding for States is going to be 1.3 billion to recover and sustain healthy fish and wildlife.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if they were going to talk about POCD, if it's on the agenda? She brought up to one of the POCD meetings that their open space map is not accurate, specifically the area around the prisons. She said she had mentioned that a substantial amount of land has been set aside for grassland and bird habitat. She believes the map needs to be changed as it is open space. She asked if there was a way for internally to have their open space map. Ms. Driver indicated that they have a new updated layer and are redoing the GIS.

6. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff:

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall gave her report on Economic Development at the Agricultural Commission meeting.

No staff reports.

Commissioner LaPlante asked if there is anything they want to comment on that involves planning and zoning or wetlands. She stated that Freshwater Brook is an important item to discuss. With the Commission discussing this application through wetlands, Commissioner Kober will excuse himself. Ms. Driver indicated that there is a wetlands application for 29 Moody Road for a development of 19,000 square feet warehouse. There is a public hearing on January 17, 2023.

Commissioner Kober indicated procedurally, since there is a public hearing that they can attend the meeting as a member of the public or submit correspondence to the Inland Wetlands Commission. The application is posted on the website for public viewing.

Commissioner Dynia reported on the watershed. They have an annual meeting on January 23, 2023, at the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor. The speaker will do a presentation on Water 101.

7. Unfinished Business:

a. List of Natural Resources

Chairman Cote stated that at the last meeting the Commission discussed the table of contents that was put together by the subcommittee and the Commission approved it. What is the next step, as it is not an easy project and will take some time.

Commissioner Kober recommends keeping it in subcommittees and each takes a chapter for example.

The inventory of natural resources is a big piece of the project. Members of the subcommittee can reach out to people for assistance on this project, however there are no funds to offer for such assistance.

It was decided that A-F on the table of contents will have a subcommittee.

Chairman Cote, Commissioners LaPlante and Wyzga will be on the subcommittee for A of the table of contents.

8. New Business:

Commissioner Kober made a motion to add item 8.c. POCD discussion, seconded by Commissioner LaPlante.

Motion passed by 7-0-0 Vote.

Commissioner Kober made a motion to add item 8.d. Review of pending Wetlands application, seconded by Commissioner LaPlante.

Motion passed by 7-0-0 Vote.

Commissioner Pfeiffer-Hall made a motion to add item 8.e. Discussion of South River Street Bridge project, seconded by Commissioner LaPlante.

Motion passed by 6-1-0 Vote.

a. Definitions of Open Spaces

As part of the package the members received some documents- the open space law and legal definitions. Ms. Driver provided the States definition as well as the town's definition. Instead of reinventing the wheel, go with the Town of Enfield definition.

b. List of Open Spaces

Commissioner LaPlante put together a list.

c. POCD Discussion

Commissioner LaPlante stated that the natural diversity database map has just been updated. The new map needs to be put into the POCD.

Commissioner Kober recommends that each Commissioner read through the report and look for changes, errors, omissions, or additions.

Ms. Driver gave an update that the public hearing will be sometime in February or March..

d. Discussion of pending Wetlands application – 29 Moody Road

Commissioner Kober excused himself from the discussion of Moody Road.

Ms. Driver passed out 2 copies of the site plan for the Moody Road Wetlands application for the Commissioners to review. The Commission members took a few minutes to review and discuss the site plan. Ms. Driver summarized the report for the Commissioners.

Chairman Cote put together a list of concerns for the Inland Wetlands Commission on this application.

1. Storage Pond
2. Fill type
3. Planting of Hawthorn trees instead of Pear trees, which are invasive.
4. Dumpster location should be relocated.
5. Request for the building to be smaller than proposed to diminish further wetland impacts.

e. Discussion of South River Street Bridge Project

Steve Cogtella left some documentation for the Commission.

Ms. Driver gave a summary of the Bridge Project and will review the concerns of Mr. Cogtella.

Ms. Driver informed the Commission of a pending 8-24 of a development that was approved by the Town Council for 1 Bright Meadow Blvd, the Mass Mutual property.

9. Next Meeting Date: February 14, 2023

10. Adjournment:

Commissioner Kober made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dynia.

Motion passed by 4-2-0 Vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01PM

Prepared by: Recording Secretary, Sandie Barone

Project 048-198, Replacement of South River Street bridge.

Yahoo! Mail <party_man_usa@yahoo.com>

Thu 1/5/2023 11:11 PM

To: wpcote4@gmail.com <wpcote4@gmail.com>; Michael Dynia <mdynia@yahoo.com>; Philip Kober <pkober3011@westfield.ma.edu>; karikaksl <karikaksl@aol.com>; timothy_mc_guire <timothy_mc_guire@sbcglobal.net>; gretchenph@snet.net <gretchenph@snet.net>; klvose <klvose@sbcglobal.net>; rwyzga@snet.net <rwyzga@snet.net>; lynn.sacerdote <lynn.sacerdote@gmail.com>
Cc: Whitten, Lauren <lwhitten@enfield.org>; Driver, Georgienna <gdriver@enfield.org>; Party Man <party_man_usa@yahoo.com>

External Email: Use Caution when opening attachments or clicking links.

Hello Commissioners,

The South River Street bridge replacement will begin on or about April 1, of this year. Preliminary work that has already taken place is the laboratory report prepared by Logical Environmental Solutions (Task 210) dated 2018, and Waste Storage Area (WSA). I've included the laboratory report and refer you to page 13, item **#7.0 Recommendations**, stating the contaminants found in the project area, and special consideration required to comply with Local, State, and Federal laws.

Based on the fact the "Town" allowed a (WSA), *Contaminated dump site*, to be built 20 feet from my home placing me in the middle of the project corridor 24/7 for several months is highly questionable, and frankly, irresponsible. My understanding is there was discussion with DOT and GM2 (Town consultant) regarding another site, but was rejected for reasons that were frivolous. Make no mistake, although the State is involved with this project, it was made clear at a May 6, 2019 Council meeting their roll is to provide administrative oversight only, and final decisions are made by the Town of Enfield. Was this location chosen for convenience to the contractor, risking the health of my family and neighbors? I was never informed this was a part of the project, and wouldn't know about it at all, if I didn't make inquiries.

For these reasons I am skeptical that environmental protocol will be monitored and followed for the duration of this project endangering natural resources, especially Freshwater Brook. I am especially concerned about human health for myself, family, and neighbors that will be exposed daily to this *Contaminated dump site*.

I request the Commission make the necessary inquiries regarding what environmental protocol will be implemented to ensure preservation of our natural resources, and human health. Mr. Cabibbo is the Town contact for this project, and to his credit has been very cooperative responding promptly to my

questions, and I'm sure he will extend the same courtesy to you.



Waste Storage Area, not yet completed, outside my North window 20 feet from my house

I request this email correspondence be placed in the January 10, 2023 minutes for the record

Sincerely,

Steve Cogtella

[Sent from Yahoo for iPad](#)