



**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 14, 2025
7:30 PM - Town Hall - Enfield Room
820 Enfield St, Enfield, CT**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cote called the meeting to order at 8:23pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: William Cote, Michael Dynia, Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga

Absent: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall

Also present was Christian D'Antonio, PZC liaison; Linda DeGray, PZC Chairperson; Stephen Hiney; Assistant Town Planner and Rebecca Jones; Recording Secretary.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 10, 2024

MOTION by: Karen LaPlante **seconded:** Michael Dynia to approve the December 10, 2024 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Vose noted that there was information missing regarding a DEEP online seminar about the state of the birds that was announced at the CACIWC seminar. Chair Cote also noted that the CIRCA training was held at the CACIWC seminar.

MOTION by: KAREN LAPLANTE **seconded:** Michael Dynia to approve the December 10, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Paul Cote, Michael Dynia, KAREN LAPLANTE, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

Commissioner LaPlante presented an article from Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall about zoning regulations that help protect water supply areas and the current lack of protection surrounding large watershed areas. Commissioner Dynia shared information from the

Hartford Courant about how much raw sewage goes into the local rivers and ends up in the Long Island sound. Chair Cote spoke about walking trail maps created by the Town of Brewster. Chair Cote stated that Commissioner LaPlante made contact with the owner/developer of Grava Properties and he agreed to come speak with the Conservation Commission regarding the his company's proposed housing development along the Connecticut River. Commissioner D'Antonio spoke about Sustainable CT and the grant opportunities available to communities that have opted in.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Commissioner Dynia shared an update from the Scantic River Watershed Association's December meeting. There was a screening of a documentary about the Sylvio Conte refuge, the Connecticut River and its tributaries. There will be a Superbowl hike on February 9th at 1:00pm starting at Bailey Road. They will be collecting canned goods for the Enfield Food Shelf. They had the first Spring Splash meeting and the river is very low. They are hoping for more precipitation. Bill's Landscaping will continue to help this year both financially and otherwise.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ECC Goals for 2025

Commissioner Cote prepared a document listing the 2025 goals for this commission.

1. Create a list of potential or valued open space parcels and establish a process for submitting open space parcels to Town Council for consideration and purchase.

Commissioner Cote volunteered to speak with members of the Town Council and the Town Manager as to how they would like these parcels be presented to the Town Council. He needs help creating the list of open space. He would like to discuss this specifically at the next meeting. Commissioner LaPlante asked Mr. Hiney if and when a new GIS system will be implemented. He is unsure as to the timeline.

2. Search for and submit a grant request for natural resources.

This has been attempted a few years ago and it is beyond the scope of the commissioners to do this. He asked someone to look for grants for consideration. Commissioner LaPlante suggested contacting Aaron Markavitch, Community Development Director as he has access to larger databases than others would. Commissioner Wyzga volunteered to work on this item. Commissioner Vose stated that UConn has information related to natural resources and will work on finding a contact there.

3. Identify a location in town that would benefit from planting trees.

They must identify ideal locations and then work on finding grants to fund this. Commissioner Vose volunteered to work on this item.

4. Identify vernal pools in Enfield.

We need to submit a grant request in order to work on this item. This would be a great learning opportunity to share with the schools. Commissioner Dynia volunteered to work on this item.

5. Elm/Shaker Community Garden project

The barn needs to come down. Chair Cote volunteered to work on this item. The commissioners talked about repurpose projects with the old barn wood.

They discussed adding an additional goal regarding creating a trail map.

B. List of Open Space

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. February 11, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Michael Dynia, seconded: Nancy Wyzga to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose

Secretary

Rebecca Jones

Recording Secretary