



**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 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 8:14pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga

Absent: Michael Dynia

Also present was Assistant Town Planner; Stephen Hiney and Recording Secretary; Rebecca Jones.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 11, 2025

MOTION by: Karen LaPlante **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to approve the February 11, 2025 meeting minutes.

Chair Cote confirmed that Commissioner Wyzga attempted to contact Aaron Markavitch, as he did not remember that from the last meeting. The commissioners asked for bullet points on the agenda under 9A to list each of the goals for 2025.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

Commissioner LaPlante made an advertisement recruiting new members for the Conservation Commission. It is similar to the advertisement she created for the Agricultural Commission. The commissioners all approved the ad as is. Chair Cote received correspondence from the Aquarian Water Company in reference to environmental volunteers to help protect the environment. Chair Cote recommended nominating Dr. Kirsten Martin as in past years. He is going to contact the Heritage River Foundation in East Windsor for assistance in the application. There is a \$5,000 prize.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Char Cote is going to contact Ms. Whitten about including money for CACIWC in their budget. The commissioners also talked about obtaining money for the kiosk at the boat launch. Commissioner Wyzga asked if money can be allocated for the natural resource list. Mr. Hiney is unsure as to how much that will cost.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall shared an update related to the 10 million dollars secured from the State of Connecticut for the Enfield Mall property. There is a new coffee shop called Black Crow Coffee located across from Freshwater Pond. The Scantic River Watershed Association will be rescheduling the Superbowl hike but have not yet made a decision. All future meetings will be held at the Enfield Senior Center.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ECC Goals for 2025

- Chair Cote has not yet been able to meet with Aaron Markavitch. He asked for a letter of endorsement from Commissioner Cote about what actions can be done to enhance the boat launch. Chair Cote asked him for assistance in finding grants for list of natural resources. He also talked with Mr. Markavitch about the vernal pool grants.
- Establish a process for submitting open space parcels to the Town Council-Chair Cote has spoken with Councilors Mangini and Santanella and will be seeing them soon and will discuss further.
- Plant trees in Enfield- Commissioner Vose shared an article where trees were planted in Louisville, KY. Many pollutants are absorbed by residents in the area. Once trees were planted, the residents had less inflammation than prior to planting. Commissioner Vose recommended planting trees in a concentrated area on Enfield Street within the historic district. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall shared feedback from a landlord's perspective. She recommended choosing one street and focusing on contacting residents. The commissioners discussed the placement of the last group of trees planted and grant options.
- List of natural resources-Commissioner Wyzga has not yet gotten ahold of Mr. Markavitch. She spoke with Shantee King, a program coordinator for the UConn College of Agriculture. Ms. King said it is a good idea but this is the end of the semester and may be something worth exploring next school year. Commissioner Wyzga found student grants. She also spoke with Jane Seymour. Hank Gerner offered to do a presentation but likely would not have as much information as Jane Seymour provided on the soil maps. The commissioners would like to work on securing a college student volunteer in the fall.

B. List of Open Space

Mr. Hiney spoke with Ms. Whitten about creating a list of open space. He shared a document from the Town of East Windsor that had a scoring rubric for potential open space considerations. Chair Cote will find a document used previously for this task. He noted that the Town GIS is extremely outdated to which Mr. Hiney agreed. Commissioner LaPlante shared contact information for Greg Vacca. They agreed to attend the next meeting to give a presentation. The commissioners discussed meeting earlier to accommodate the special guest.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. March 11, 2025

The next regular meeting will be on April 8, 2025.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Nancy Wyzga, seconded: Karen LaPlante to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Vose
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary