



**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
July 8, 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 7:58pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Michael Dynia, Nancy Wyzga

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 10, 2025

MOTION by: Karen LaPlante **seconded:** Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall **to approve the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes.**

Commissioner LaPlante noted that a sentence should read that 'the commissioners agreed that they will be pursuing a grant for invasive species.'

MOTION by: KAREN LAPLANTE **seconded:** Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall **to approve the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.**

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

MOTION by: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall **seconded:** Bill Cote to review the site plan for 20 Oliver Road under 'New Business'.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Megan Kelly shared information related to stormwater management plans for residential developments. There is a new initiative to create rain gardens during residential

renovations. The Native Plant Trust offers tours of their rain gardens at the Botanical Gardens, which were created from stormwater runoff.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

Mr. Hiney gave Mr. Cote a copy of the site plan for 20 Oliver Road.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Commissioner LaPlante stated that Joann's tree had died. A contractor damaged it at the Senior Center, and it was not fixed. She is in possession of the memorial sign should another tree be planted. Commissioner D'Antonio noted that parking lot landscaping has been discussed recently by PZC. Rain gardens in parking lots would aid in calming heat islands. Commissioner LaPlante shared information related to bear spray. She also shared an article related to street trees grants. There will be tribute at the Enfield Loaves and Fishes for a woman who died while traveling overseas. Information was shared about new market-rate apartments located in Bloomfield. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall shared updates from the last EDC meeting. She also shared that Enfield Historian Bill Hoseley passed away. Chair Cote explained that a grant was received by the Scantic River Watershed Association from Cox Enterprises. They will also be at the Enfield Fourth of July Celebration promoting the trails and the water testing Dr. Martin is doing.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ECC Goals for 2025

- 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
- Search for and submit a grant request for natural resources
- Identify a location in town that would benefit from planting trees
- Identify vernal pools in Enfield
- Elm/Shaker Community Garden project
- Creating a trail map

Chair Cote has a TIF meeting on July 17, 2025 and he will discuss the grant related to invasive species. Commissioner LaPlante attended the webinar on invasive species earlier that day. Commissioner LaPlante shared information related to a federal grant. The commissioners discussed Facebook posts related to the TIF committee. Chair Cote suggested forming a subcommittee to work on the grant for invasive species. Commissioner LaPlante opined that there needs to be support from DPW as they may be the department that does the actual work. Ms. Kelly suggested utilizing college students to assist in invasive species removal. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall suggested contacting Donald Nunes regarding

DPW involvement. Commissioner LaPlante noted that the grant must be applied to the Thompsonville area. Chair Cote will reach out to Commissioners Dynia and Wyzga regarding their interest in a subcommittee related to grants. Ms. Kelly will reach out to different agencies for further input.

Mr. Hiney explained that there is no update to the GIS system and he does not have the answer as to why.

Commissioner D'Antonio left the meeting at 8:35pm.

B. List of Open Space

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. 33 North River Road

Commissioner LaPlante shared details from the IWWA hearing related to this application. She opined that the developers were not receptive to her comments, particularly comments related to grass seeding. Commissioner LaPlante reviewed aerial photos of North River Street. She opined that the road has been town-owned since the 1930's. She reviewed comments made by Ms. Driver related to setbacks and noted that this is an issue that must be addressed. Town Engineer's comments were reviewed relating to the right-of-way. Commissioner Cote discussed road maintenance. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked Commissioner LaPlante about specific concerns related to conservation. Parking space requirements were discussed. Snow storage plan was reviewed. Mr. Hiney noted that a special condition was added related to snow storage. Commissioner LaPlante explained that the most recent zoning regulations are from 2021 and many text amendments have been excluded. She reviewed the institutional knowledge held by the commissioners. The commissioners discussed stormwater reports. Mr. Hiney explained that a 25-year stormwater report was requested and received per Town requests. Commissioner LaPlante noted that the applicant did not specify that the 25-year stormwater report was adequate and clarification needs to be provided. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall reviewed a list of talking points for the upcoming PZC meeting based on Commissioner LaPlante's extensive comments and concerns.

B. 20 Oliver Road

Chair Cote reviewed the proposed site plan for the project. He is supportive of the project. Mr. Hiney explained that the applicant will only be disturbing areas that have previously been disturbed. Commissioner LaPlante asked for clarification related to the conservation

land. The commissioners decided not to speak at the public hearing related to this application.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. September 9, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, 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 9:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose

Secretary

Rebecca Jones

Recording Secretary