

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018
ROOM 222 CROMWELL TOWN HALL, 41 WEST STREET
MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTES**

Present: Chairman Scott Lamberson, Joseph Cap, Joseph Corlis, John Whitney

Absent: Amanda Drew

Also Present: Director of Planning and Development Stuart Popper

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lamberson at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates

The presence of the above members was noted. No alternates were seated.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Joseph Corlis; Seconded by Joseph Cap.
All in favor; motion passed.

4. Town Planner Report

Mr. Popper passed out copies of the February 7, 2018 edition of the Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report and said that he would forward the report each week, if the members were interested in receiving it.

John Whitney explained the Farm Transition Grant by saying it was a 50/50 grant for up to \$49,999.00, to be used for larger scale improvements. He had previously received the grant and used it to construct a barn. He said the application required a business plan and an applicant needed to finance the project in full and would then be reimbursed. He said that he was unaware of any other farmers in town that might be eligible.

Mr. Popper next discussed the Cromwell Landing project. He said that three species had been identified by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as requiring study over the summer. He reviewed the proposed improvements and said that there is some brownstone located on land to the north that can be reused.

Mr. Popper said that the Frisbee Park improvements would allow for additional parking in the grass area off of Route 99, for use during special events. He then mentioned that the roads and open space at Northwoods had been accepted by the town and the developer had been bonded to complete small pedestrian bridges and trails.

Mr. Popper said he was starting a committee to work on the update of the 2009 Town of Cromwell Open Space and Conservation Plan from within the Planning and Zoning Commission. He was looking at possibly utilizing online surveys or community forums to solicit input. The Conservation Committee's role would be to review and approve the proposed update of the Open Space Plan.

There was also some brief discussion regarding a number of other matters: that the land swap for 120 County Line Drive had been approved, that ShopRite was continuing to work on obtaining its OSTA permit, and that there was some interest in possible hotel development in town. Chevron was continuing to work on the cleanup of the contaminated soil at the tank farm. The town was continuing to search for a developer for the River Road project. Site plans were expected next for the Nike Site and former Millane property projects. The Planning and Zoning Commission had recently denied the Affordable Housing apartment project and the applicant was appealing the decision.

5. Old Business:

a. Discussion of the update of the 2009 Town of Cromwell Open and Space Conservation Plan.

(See Town Planner's Report above).

6. New Business: None

7. Farmland Preservation Committee:

John Whitney stated that he had been asked to represent Cromwell at the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Government at their monthly meetings. He said that, after talking with representatives from other towns, he believes that Cromwell is farm friendly. He said that the Council was looking to make farm regulations more universal throughout the region.

8. Communications: None

9. Commissioner's Comments: None

10. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

11. Approval of Minutes:

a. December 14, 2017: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Joseph Cap; Seconded by Joseph Corlis. *All in favor; motion passed.* John Whitney abstained.

- 12. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Corlis; Seconded by Joseph Cap.
Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie C. Petrella".

Julie C. Petrella
Recording Clerk