


**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

7:00 PM APRIL 11, 2019

**ROOM 224 CROMWELL TOWN HALL, 41 WEST STREET
MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTES**

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
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JOAN AHLQUIST
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT 

Present: Scott Lamberson, Joseph Corlis, John Whitney, Amanda Drew, Joseph Cap (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

Absent:

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 Amanda Drew; Seconded by Joseph Corlis.
All in favor; motion passed. (Joseph Cap was not present for this vote).

4. Town Planner Report: Mr. Popper began by discussing the Sustainable Connecticut Municipal Certificate Program (see #6 below).

Mr. Popper said that the Town was meeting with the engineering group to discuss the Cromwell Landing project. There would be some minor steps that need to be taken to protect several species during construction and they would also be reviewing the final plan for rebuilding the seawall from the land side, using some brownstone located in an adjacent area. There are also plans to build a trail system around the perimeter of the park and to build a handicap accessible fishing pier to the right of the existing dock. There would be a phased plan for future improvements, including a more formalized entrance and parking area, lighting, benches, and plantings. He said that about \$50K of the \$323K budget had been spent so far on the design and species study. The project was being designed so that future improvements could be made later, as funds become available, such as a possible canopy or gazebo. He said that it was possible that the park trail could one day be connected to the land at 60-61 River Road, and perhaps as far as South Street. Mr. Popper said that the project required permitting from the Town's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, as well as Planning and Zoning, but did not need permits from the Army Corps or DEEP. Construction would take place during late summer, during the low point of the river.

Mr. Popper mentioned several other developments in town, saying that the ShopRite was opening on or about May 12 and Marshalls a week later. The TPC Clubhouse project was

progressing and might be done as much as a month early. The new Marriott Springhill Suites should start construction in about two weeks. He said that there was still 30,000 square feet left to lease in the ShopRite plaza, to the front of the School of Massage. He mentioned that Starbucks would likely start construction in the summer. He said that the new businesses would help attract new tenants to the vacancies in their respective plazas.

Mr. Popper said that the Town garage project was approved by Inland Wetlands and would be in front of Planning and Zoning next week, with work to start by mid summer.

Joseph Corlis asked about the hotel development planned for between the Sunoco and Quality Inn and Mr. Popper said that the lot had been subdivided and the parcel sold, but that he had not seen any new site plans.

Chairman Lamberson asked Mr. Popper what was needed to be done in regards to the Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Popper said that he would seek funds in next year's budget (2020-2021) to work on the POCD, which needed to be done by 2022. The Commission needs to update the open space plan and make an accurate accounting of all open space, whether owned by the state, town or privately, including conservations areas set aside during development. Mr. Popper said he would look at whether any new statutes were in effect regarding open space.

There was a brief discussion regarding the possible development of 60-61 River Road in the future. Mr. Popper said that the river area would likely always remain town owned, as it is a deep water area that could support large boats for recreation and educational purposes. The land side could be developed but meeting building code requirements for a floodplain would be costly.

5. Old Business: NONE

6. New Business:

a. Update on the Sustainable Connecticut Municipal Certification Program

Mr. Popper said that he had participated in a workshop to learn more about the program and it is essentially a credit system, where towns document certain actions that they undertake, and if they acquire so many credits per year, they maintain their certification and can be eligible for certain funding and grant programs. He will be attending a workshop later this month about certain things that can be added to the Plan of Conservation and Development for sustainability. Mr. Popper passed out an email entitled Ideas in Sustainable Connecticut, dated March 22, 2019, and said that if any ideas were of interest to the Commission that he would investigate them further on their behalf. Mr. Popper said that the Town is a registered community, having passed a resolution designating this Commission as the Sustainable Town Committee and now they just need to work on registering for programs and acquiring credits.

7. Farmland Preservation Committee: John Whitney said that the State is still interested in buying development rights. Mr. Popper mentioned that Cromwell Growers will have over 1M square feet of greenhouse space once its expansion project is complete. He also said that Cromwell has been able to maintain agricultural uses, even with property transfers, citing the sale of Millane's Nurseries to Prides Corner Farms as an example. He also mentioned the newly

released pictorial history book on Cromwell, authored by a member of the Cromwell Historical Society. There was a brief discussion regarding the ongoing Library renovation.

8. Communications: None

9. Commissioners' Comments: Amanda Drew said that the Conservation Commission's budget had recently passed.

10. Public Comments: None

11. Approval of Minutes:

a. December 5, 2018: Amanda Drew made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Seconded by John Whitney.

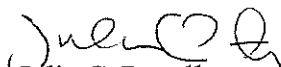
In favor: Amanda Drew, Joseph Corlis, John Whitney. Abstained: Scott Lamberson, Joseph Cap. *Motion passed.*

b. February 14, 2019: John Whitney made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Seconded by Joseph Corlis.

In favor: Scott Lamberson, John Whitney, Joseph Corlis. Abstained: Amanda Drew, Joseph Cap. *Motion passed.*

12. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by John Whitney; Seconded by Joseph Corlis. *All were in favor; motion passed.* Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie C. Petrella
Recording Clerk