

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

7:00 PM FEBRUARY 14, 2019

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Feb 15, 2019 02:54P
JOAN AHLQUIST
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT *JA*

Present: Scott Lamberson, Joseph Corlis, John Whitney

Absent: Amanda Drew, Joseph Cap

Also Present: Director of Planning and Development Stuart Popper

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lamberson at 7:03 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 John Whitney; Seconded by Joseph Corlis.
All in favor; motion passed.

4. Town Planner Report:

Mr. Popper provided updates on several projects under construction around town, including the ShopRite, Marshalls, and School of Massage in the former Kmart plaza, the Marriott on Berlin Road, the TPC Clubhouse, and the ARCO building on 120 County Line Drive. Mr. Popper said that Starbucks was waiting on its OSTA permit before it could begin construction. He also mentioned several new businesses that had recently opened, such as Mizzu Asian Bistro, Joe's Filling Station, Jefferson Fry Company, Gyro Love, and Café Luna.

Mr. Popper said that they had received a Community Connectivity Grant for sidewalk installation along Main Street up to Sunset Drive and Geer Street from Washington Road. He said that they will continue to look for funding for additional trail systems and sidewalks.

Mr. Popper mentioned the environmental studies required by DEEP as part of the Cromwell Landing Project. He said that they may need to relocate some mussels as part of the rebuilding of the seawall.

5. Old Business:

NONE

6. New Business:

a. Update on the Sustainable Connecticut Municipal Certification Program

Mr. Popper reviewed a handout that he had received while attending a seminar on February 8, 2019 entitled *Municipal Action Success Stories in Land and Natural Resources and Planning*. He said that the program allows for the recognition of a town through the awarding of points for various conservation activities.

Chairman Lamberson asked if there were things that the Commission should be doing as part of this program. Mr. Popper said that they should begin compiling a list of goals to include better pedestrian access, connecting the town parks, and establishing more trail systems. He gave the example of establishing a waterfront trail to include Cromwell Landing. He said that the town needed to update its Plan of Conservation and Development by 2022 and would include funding in the budget so that they could begin working on that. He suggested that they begin charting some paths along the Town GIS system to evaluate their feasibility. He mentioned a loop system project proposal suggested by State Senator Matt Lesser, which aims to connect a number of trailway systems around the state.

Mr. Popper said that he would add brainstorming for ideas to be made a part of the agenda.

7. Farmland Preservation Committee:

Chairman Lamberson asked if there was any new activity on this topic. Mr. Popper said it would stay on the agenda just to keep people informed. He said that the majority of the former Millane's property was staying as an agricultural use. He said he wasn't aware of any current plans to develop any farmland in town.

8. Communications:

Mr. Popper provided the members with copies of the Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report dated February 13, 2019.

9. Commissioners' Comments:

John Whitney mentioned a new law allowing for a "Cottage Kitchen" and he is pursuing such a certification from the Department of Consumer Protection. He said it is less burdensome as it does not require having a completely separate kitchen.

10. Public Comments:

Brian O'Toole, 40 Court Street, mentioned that Rocky Hill had recently purchased the development rights of three farms and had established a fund of \$10M by town referendum. He wants to see Cromwell do something similar, especially for smaller parcels. He said that Rocky Hill has declared a right to farm. Mr. Popper will check to see if Cromwell has made a similar declaration and said that farming is allowed by right in residential areas. Chairman Lamberson said if Cromwell is not, they can make such a recommendation to the Town Council.

Mr. Popper said that there is money in the open space fund, and that some of those funds had been used in the previous Phoenix Farm matching grant. There was a discussion about the parameters of the state program, such as the requirement that it be a working farm producing food for human consumption.

Chairman Lamberson suggested reaching out to residents who have land classified as Section 490 to see if they might be interested in any of the preservation programs.

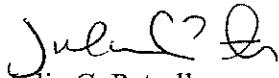
11. Approval of Minutes:

- a. December 5, 2018: no action taken.

12. Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by John Whitney; Seconded by Joseph Corlis. *All were in favor; motion passed.* Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie C. Petrella
Recording Clerk