

**Town of Cromwell
Conservation Commission**

Regular Meeting
7:00 PM Thursday, November 12, 2020
Room 224 Cromwell Town Hall 41 West Street

Meeting Minutes

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JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT



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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Director of Planning and Development Stuart Popper, Deputy Mayor Jennifer Donohue

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Lamberson at 7:02 PM.

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 Cap. *All in favor; motion passed.*

4. Town Planner Report:

Mr. Popper updated the Commission on several projects:

Cromwell Landing went out to bid and the park is under construction. The existing trail system will be expanded so it is closer to the river. The riverbank was built up with some of the sandstone from around town and the installation of the handicap fishing pier is going forward. One issue is the availability of the steel and lumber due the pandemic. Landscaping continues and new trees are being planted. A gazebo will be installed. Existing fishing areas will not be blocked, such as the large rocks from which many people tend to fish.

The Marriott Hotel is finished and open for business. The Starbucks is almost there; interior construction will begin next week. The outside is complete. Striping will be done in the parking lot. Potentially opening by Christmas. Hoping to recruit additional tenants for the shopping center. They have a couple of open spaces where the pet store and the real estate agent used to be over in the Nardelli's building.

Gaylord Physical Therapy opened on Route 372, which is a nice operation. They are doing well and there are very busy.

Cromwell Village (former Nike site) is currently under construction. Right now, they are

working quite a bit on Country Squire Drive bringing the gas and the water utilities up to the top of the hill. The 166 luxury apartments should be completed in July of 2021.

The Covenant Village site is moving along quite well. The first phase of 57 new residential units should be ready for rent around Christmas. Arbor Meadows, the luxury houses up on Field Road, continues with about a half dozen houses currently under construction. They initially had hoped for about 15 units for the first phase, but what really slowed them down was the extension of all the utilities.

Back in the middle of the summer, Town Engineer Jon Harriman and Mr. Popper prepared a STEAP Grant application to light the parking lot over by Mitchell's and install two electric vehicle charging stations. These are commercial grade charging units that will charge an electric vehicle in about 20 minutes. We were fortunate to receive almost \$100,000 to install on the lighting at the parking lot and to also install two commercial grade charging stations. Users will pay for use with a credit card. We will go out to bid for the construction, installation, and operation of the units. No data on how many electric cars are in Cromwell. The charging stations will be good for downtown economy, as customers can charge their cars while visiting local businesses. We are participating in the sustainable Connecticut program. There a number of levels of sustainability, so we will be going for the first levels sustainability in 2021 and we are hoping that that the chargers will help with that.

There is an application for two digital billboards over at Piney Ridge Road located off of South Street. There have been several public hearings regarding the billboards; the zoning regulations have been amended to allow for that zone district. There will be two one-sided digital billboards, one facing Route 9 Southbound and one facing Route 9 Northbound.

The Department of Public Works garage is moving equipment to their new location on County Line Drive, located next to the Amazon facility.

The POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) must be updated by September 2022

5. Old Business:

None

6. New Business:

a. Approval of 2021 Meeting Calendar

John Whitney made a motion to approve the 2021 Meeting Calendar; Seconded by Joseph Corlis. *All in favor; motion passed.*

7. Farmland Preservation Committee:

John Whitney reported that there was no new information regarding any farm-related programs.

8. Communications:

None

9. Commissioner's Comments:

None

10. Public Comments:

None

11. Approval of Minutes

a. November 14, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019 was made by John Whitney; Seconded by Joseph Cap. *All in favor; motion passed.*

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by John Whitney at 7:21 PM; Seconded by Joseph Cap. *All in favor; motioned passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Armetta" followed by a stylized monogram or set of initials.

Michelle Armetta

Recording Clerk