

**TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY / CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Deborah W. Reid, PIC
RECEIVED FEB - 6 2023
6:10 pm

MINUTES: February 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blondin John, Jennings Arthur, Katzbek Dan, Kelly Barbara, Macdonald James, Phillips John, and Reed Adam

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cote, Paul, Muller Richard

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Durette Joe

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Folger, Sr. Environmental Planner
Tersee Flores, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: Steven King Jr., Deputy Mayor

Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Alternate Durette to be seated for Commissioner Cote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Chairperson Kelly asked for public comment for items that were not on agenda. No public comment.

PERMIT EXTENSIONS: None

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS: None

BONDS: None

MINUTES: The minutes of 1-18-23 were approved by consensus.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: None

WETLAND OFFICER:

Chairperson Kelly discussed Senior Environmental Planner Jeff Folger mentioned regarding Pleasant Valley School right after the storm the PV was cleared in terms of run off.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

NEW BUSINESS: Action on the revised IWA regulations.

Commissioner Blondin made a motion to adopt the new regulations. Commissioner Phillips made a friendly amendment that the existing regulations dated October 18, 2000, should be repealed in their entirety, and the latest revision, dated February 1, 2023, be adopted in its entirety.

Seconded by Jennings.

The motion was called. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Kelly requested the Recording Secretary Tersee Flores to create a bound copy.

OLD BUSINESS: Response to the PZC questionnaire.

Chairperson Kelly discussed each question and asked the Commissioners to share their thoughts on the PZC questionnaire.

Question 1- From your perspective, what are South Windsor's greatest strengths and attributes? Have these changed in the last decade? If so, what is different today?

Commissioner Jennings mentioned everything changes with time we re-adopt regulations. Chairperson Kelly mentioned the last strategic plans used to value something about the rural character of the town. That's not the primary appreciation of the town any more.

Commissioner Reed, Jennings and Phillips discussed economic and housing development, taxes, school system and senior citizens.

Question 2- From your board or commission's specific perspective and/or area of expertise, what are the three to five most important planning, conservation, development, infrastructure, or sustainability issues facing South Windsor over the next ten years?

Commissioner Phillips discussed preserving open space in addition to public access.

Chairperson Kelly mentioned protecting and sustaining the remaining environmental resources. There should be some kind of identification of use and management.

Question 3- Please list the major accomplishments that your board or commission has achieved over the last ten years.

Chairperson Kelly discussed how the Commission just updated the last 20 yr. old regulations and how objectively, impartially, and expeditiously the Commission applies the CT Inland Wetlands regulations for the Town.

Commissioner Jennings discussed development now compare to 20 years ago and items that have come up at our past Commission meetings were they found themselves cleaning up old messes.

Chairperson Katzbek highlighted one major factor is that the Commission is made up of volunteers.

Question 4- What are the three highest priority initiatives or objectives that your board or commission is currently pursuing, or think should be pursued, over the next ten years?

Commissioner Phillips mentioned that the Commission is not allowed to have an objective or initiates and one of our greatest strengths is that the Commission is bipartisan. As a Conservation Commission we need to bring up to P&Z and or other groups we approved it because of according to IWA laws and regulations it was legal however we do not think it's the best use of this property from the Conservation Commission point of view. We should be doing a bit more as a Conservation Commission.

Chairperson Kelly shared within the scope of what we do we can ensure our decisions are carried out throughout other groups actions.

Chairperson Jennings discussed different backgrounds and protecting Inland Wetlands Agency.

Question 5- Are there any sustainability initiatives that your board or commission has achieved over the last ten years, or plans to focus on over the next ten years?

Chairperson mentioned within the IWA/CC we do not initiate things but opportunities with Conservation we might want to take a look to either identify resources or inform others.

Commissioner Blondin mentioned the Town of South Windsor produces the most eagle scouts in the State of CT. Many of the projects are sponsored by the Conservation Commission.

Steven King Jr., Deputy Mayor expressed his gratitude, appreciation and knowledge of all committee members. He mentioned IWA/CC is one of the most respected Commissions.

OTHER BUSINESS: Review and action of the By-Laws and Election of Officers

By-Laws - The draft By-Laws were approved by consensus.

Election of Officers:

Motion to: Nominate Barbra Kelly for Chairperson by Commissioner Jennings. Commissioner Phillips seconds the motion. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Motion to: Nominate John Phillips for Vice Chairperson by Commissioner Blondin. Commissioner Jennings seconds the motion. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Motion to: Nominate Adam Reed for Secretary by Commissioner Phillips. Commissioner Jennings seconds the motion. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Kelly discussed the Cross-Town trail location and design. They requested the Consultant to present at the next Commission Meeting, February 15, 2023.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to: adjourn at 7:54 a.m.

Was made by: Commissioner Blondin

Second by: Commissioner Phillips

The motion carried.

The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted:

Tersee Flores

Recording Secretary