

BOARD AND COMMISSION SUMMARY

APRIL 2021

Arts & Culture Commission

The Arts & Culture Commission met on April 15th at the Joseph N. Goff House. They heard a final presentation for a grant proposal. The members voted on the recipients of the grants for this year. The members discussed the Poet Laureate. They will do some research on the position and will have more discussions at a future meeting.

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance met on April 7th for a special meeting where they unanimously approved a budget to be recommended to the Town Council as the 2021-2022 Town Budget. The Board also met for their regularly scheduled meeting on April 19th where they unanimously approved a motion to authorize the purchase of land owned by the Jane Christopher Family Trust and the Ronald Christopher revocable trust.

Brownfields Redevelopment Agency

The Brownfields Redevelopment Agency met on April 26th via Zoom. The members discussed the properties of 1 Watrous, 13 Watrous, and 3 Walnut under continued business. There was also discussion about outreach to other town agencies to partner with Brownfields.

Clean Energy Task Force

The Clean Energy Task Force met on April 13th via Zoom. The members were informed that the power plant down the river has put a stop to the planned renovations that would cause more pollution. There was discussion of implementing clean energy programs and projects within the town and community to promote and spread the awareness of clean energy. These programs would be held during the fall and spring months.

Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging met on April 8th via Zoom. The members discussed options for working with the Housing Authority to better serve the needs of older adults living in town. Dr. Rosenberg also noted he met with Housing Authority Director Jodi Brazal. She indicated there is a need to increase housing for older adults. The commission discussed resurrecting the Round Table meetings. Dr. Rosenberg and Ms. Berkovich met with Town Planner Jeremy DeCarli about the housing process and new types of housing for older adults. Members discussed possibly doing another survey.

Conservation-Lake Commission

The Conservation-Lake Commission met on April 8th via Zoom. Members of the public spoke about the Long Hill property proposal. The members reviewed and discussed the proposal. They asked Mr. Rand questions about the proposal for the land. There were brief updates on the budget, the watershed projects/ federal funding, the sub-committee report on education, the advisory panel, the Lake Smart program, and the lake level. There were more comments from the public present about the proposed Long Hill land development.

Design Review Board

The Design Review Board met on April 15th via Zoom. The group welcomed two new members. The members reviewed and discussed the proposed plan for 97 Main Street Po's Rice and Spice. The plan was recommended for approval with a few suggestions.

Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission met on April 20th via Zoom. Matthew Reich was voted in as the new Chairman and Mr. Csere remains as the Vice Chairman. The members discussed the Masks for Small Business Initiative, the Bells on the Bridge project, the business pamphlet, the Planning and Zoning minutes and approvals, the new business banner location, Belltown spotlight on business, and town beautification. There was discussion of bringing back the local business networking event for the fall. The goal for the event would be to give local businesses the opportunity to promote their business and network with other local businesses.

Ethics Commission

No meeting

Fire Commission

The Fire Commission met on April 12th via Zoom. A motion was made to approve the purchase of a few electrical panels. The Fire Chief and Fire Marshal gave their reports. The members discussed the dry hydrants, the 2020 awards and stipend programs, and the budget. The members heard the proposal for purchasing some thermal imaging cameras. A motion was made to approve of the purchase of some cameras with a not to exceed \$3,500 out of line item 5690.

Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency

The Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency met on April 28th via Zoom.

Continued Applications:

- A. IW-21-006: Grasshopper Landscaping, LLC., 41 Meeks Point Road, to install a paver walkway and steps on south side of house, install a 10' x 10' gazebo with crushed stone base, install stepping stones under deck to fence, install (2) retaining walls with steps, install a 20' x 4' paver walkway from garage door to deck steps and to install a stone pillar fence along Meeks Point Road. Work is within the Upland Review Area. Map 10A/Block 83/Lot 8. Approved (7-0)
- B. IW-21-007: Po's Rice and Spice, 97 Main St., install 2 concrete pads, a stone patio, fencing, gravel parking lot and greenery in the Upland Review Area Map 06A/Block 57/Lot 1A. Approved (7-0)
- C. IW-21-008: Long Hill Estates, LLC, Long Hill Road, for an 8- lot residential subdivision within an upland review area. Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 8. Approved (7-0)

New Applications:

- A. IW-21-010: Sipaphay Sundara, 3 Old Skinner St., for a 15 x 30 AG pool and a 5 x 7 deck within the Upland Review Area. Map 13/Block 33/Lot 14A. Agent Approval (7-0)
- B. IW-21-011: Marozzi Construction, 22 West Point Road, to repair a stone seawall, add a new stone wall at boat launch, repair stonework and sturdy the walls under the dock. Work within the Upland Review Area. Map 05A/Block 83/Lot 11. Continued to the May 26, 2021 meeting (7-0).

Joint Facilities

No meeting

Library Advisory Board

The Library Advisory Board met on April 5th via Zoom. The members discussed the space planner services. Several members of the board will participate in the space planning exercises. The Children's Librarian presented a preview of the Summer Reading plans.

Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission met on April 22nd via Zoom. The members reviewed and discussed four plan reviews with the attending applicants and property owners. The plans involved the Long Hill Road subdivision proposal, a replacement of building materials for a flat section of the roof, replace an existing rundown roof with a new one and restore the home back to a single-family house, and install a garden shed in the back yard of a residence.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met on April 6th. They heard a presentation from Pam Joslyn of the Rotary Club on a Community Garden. The board agreed to support the community garden. They received updates from the Air Line Trail Sub-Committee and the Seamster Park Playground group regarding the golf tournament. An update was given on spring and summer sports and camps.

Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission met on April 7th via Zoom.

Public Hearings for April 7, 2021: (Use the "Raise Your Hand" feature to speak)

- A. Application PZC-20-024: Paula Free, 249 West High St., for a special permit per Sec. 8.4 Motor Fuel Filling Station with a proposed convenience store in the Commercial Zone, Section 5.2. Map 06/Block 12/Lot 1B. – Continued to the May 5, 2021 regular meeting per the request of the applicant
- B. Application PZC-21-005: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Road, for a 2-lot subdivision Map 01C/Block 9/Lot 5. Approved 7-0
- C. Application PZC-21-007: Atlantis Marketing, 157 Main Street, 1 Colchester Ave., and 5 Colchester Ave., for a zone change from R-2 to Commercial Map 07A/Block 56/ Lots 21,22,24. Continued to the May 5, 2021 regular meeting. 7-0
- D. Application PZC-21-006: James Marino, Deer Meadow, for a Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment Map 35/Block 95/Lot 7-44. Approved with conditions 6-Yes; 1-No (Mr. Sennett)

New Business:

- A. Application PZC-21-008: Po's Rice and Spice, 97 Main St., Site Plan Modification for 2 concrete pads, a stone patio, fencing, gravel parking lot and greenery Map 06A/Block 57/Lot 1A. Phase 1 approved (concrete pad for freezer, stone patio and walkway) 7-0
- B. Application PZC-21-009: Long Hill Estates, LLC., for an Eight (8) Lot Subdivision on Long Hill Road. Map 06/Block 12/ Lot 8. Public hearing set for the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 5, 2021 7-0
- C. 8-24 Review: Acceptance of donated land Map 12/Block 36/Lot 8 - West High Street. Favorable recommendation made to Town Council 7-0

- D. 8-24 Review: Acceptance of donated land – Fire Station #2 Parking Map 01C/Block 7/Lot 6B. Favorable recommendation made to Town Council 7-0
- E. 8-24 Review: Purchase of Christopher Property 7.5 acres Map 4A/Block 45/Lot 29. Favorable recommendation made to Town Council 7-0
- F. Update to Subdivision Regulations Sec. IV.10 – Public Hearing Scheduled for May 5
- G. Discussion: Pools and lot coverage. Continued to the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 5, 2021

Town Facility Building Committee

The Town Facility Building Committee met on April 8th at the Town Hall and via Zoom. The members discussed items in the CM contingency that were not approved by the committee prior to being paid out. They also approved four invoices.

Water Pollution Control Authority

The Water Pollution Control Authority Board met on April 6th via Zoom. The board reviewed the proposed Water Budget for all systems totaling \$239,212.00 and will require an increase in water rates for FY21/22. The monthly meter charge would increase from \$40.00 to \$42.50 per month, \$30.00 per year/EMU. The final review will be on May 4, 2021 and presented to the Town Council on Tuesday May 11, 2021 for review. The second half of the sewer bills are due for April 1st. Being the first year of this program, the tax office sent a courtesy reminder notice to those who paid a 1st half installment in October. Delinquent notices will be sent after May 3rd to anyone who did not pay the full payment or an installment payment in October.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 12th via Zoom

Public Hearings:

- A. Application ZBA-21-004, Miguel & Julianne Roman, 51 Highland Terrace, for a variance to reduce the front setback from 50' to 25' to construct a 20' x 40' pool with a concrete patio around the perimeter of the pool Map 18/Block 44/Lot 23G-1. Approved