

BOARD AND COMMISSION SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2022

Arts & Culture Commission

The Arts & Culture Commission met on Thursday, February 17 at the Joseph N. Goff House. Two grant applications have been received to date. No applications have been received for the Capstone Grant. The Commission is working with the Belltown Garden Club to plan a Garden Tour/Plein Air Painting event. Members discussed the Kindness with Kids Grant and the Town Painted Bells for a possible bell tour in the fall.

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 22. This was Ted Turner's first meeting since being appointed to fill the seat vacated by Wesley Jenks.

A unanimous vote approved a change of wording in the Fund Balance Policy (change of guideline percentages to "not less than 10% nor more than 12%..."). An Executive Session also took place at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss data security strategy. The March 21 Regular Meeting will actually be the Public Hearing where budgets will be presented by Mr. Cox and Mr. Smith.

Brownfields Redevelopment Agency

The Brownfields Redevelopment Agency met on February 28. New member Tory Man was introduced to the agency members. Members discussed the status of 1 Watrous Street, 13 Watrous Street, 13 Summit Street and 3 Walnut Avenue. The STEAP grant for 13 Watrous Street has been closed out. There was discussion on economic development opportunities for 3 Walnut Avenue and the availability of ARP funds. There was discussion of a historic preservation grant and where that could be used. The next meeting will focus on a 1-2 year plan and take a deeper look at 3 Walnut Avenue.

Clean Energy Task Force

The Clean Energy Task Force met on February 1. The members elected a new Chairman and Vice Chairperson. The members discussed the clean energy solutions and the application process for Sustainable CT with the Town Council. It was suggested to get a representative from Sustainable CT and Susan Bransfield from Portland to attend the next Town Council meeting to talk to the members to further show and explain why joining Sustainable CT would be beneficial for the town. The task force members discussed forming three sub-committees to help the clean energy programs, encourage task force membership, making recommendations for the task force 2022 agenda for outside specific projects, and for keeping track of the Sustainable CT projects/ programs.

Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging met on February 10. Jo Ann Ewing provided an update on the events at the Senior Center. Members discussed the presentation that was provided to the Council. Sub-committees were formed for Housing, Transportation and Health/Wellness. A memo will be sent to the Council for a member to serve on each sub-committee. The Commission on Aging budget submission will be for the same amount as last year.

Conservation-Lake Commission

The Conservation-Lake Commission met on February 10. The members received updates for the liaison report, watershed projects/ federal funding, the lake smart program, the budget estimation for

dredging projects, and next year's budget proposal for NEAR. The members approved of the budget changes for NEAR for next year's budget. The town received a verbal 'go ahead' from DEEP to move forward on the watershed projects. The paperwork needs to be signed by all pertinent parties. The projects will start in mid-May with a contractor on board. There will be an article in the next Events magazine about rain gardens. The members discussed having speakers come talk about rain gardens in April and buffer zones in June.

Design Review Board

No meeting

Economic Development Commission

The Economic Development Commission met on February 15. The members made a motion to add the Village Center sewer odor issues onto the agenda under New Business. The members received an update on the Bells on the Bridge event and discussed forming a sub-committee for the event to better plan and discuss for the event. The members reviewed and discussed the minutes and motions from the last Planning and Zoning meeting. The members discussed implementing a 'project tracker', mentioned the nomination form for Business of the Month and Spotlight on Business on the town website, and discussed the sewer odor issue inside some Village Center businesses.

Fire Commission

The Fire Commission met on February 14. There were motions to approve the purchases of five new sets of gear and more batteries for the thermal cameras. The members received updates on the dry hydrants, the Ladder and Tanker, and made a motion to approve both the Tax Abatement and the Awards Program for 2021. The members discussed the emergency break-out road for the subdivision on Spice Hill. Mr. Visintainer was inquiring about the maintenance and durability of the road. It was suggested to have the Fire Marshal look into the road and who is responsible for it.

Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency

Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency met on February 24.

Continued Applications:

- A. IW-21-025: Middletown Sportsmen's Club, Champion Hill Road – Construction of Fire Access Road partially in Upland Review Area and a bridge over intermittent stream. Map 11/ Block 40A/ Lot 18 - No action
- B. Application IW-21-026: William Carter, 23 Bay Road. Construct seawall along Lake Pocotopaug and regrade yard area. Map 09A/ Block 70/ Lot 23 – No action

Joint Facilities

The Colchester –East Hampton Joint Facilities Board met on February 15th via Zoom. The Joint Facilities Board approved the 2022/23 Joint Facilities Operating Budget totaling \$2,632,160. Vote: 4-0. The discussion of Colchester odor control problem continues. The Board approved the proposed RFQ for the Middletown Ave. pump station (MAPS) with modifications.

Library Advisory Board

The Library Advisory Board met on February 7. The Library budget was submitted to the Finance Director. Capital requests will include repairs to the exterior of the building. The interviews for the Library Director will take place on February 9. The members discussed the Kindness Grant and the components of the month-long event.

Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission met on February 24. The members reviewed and discussed two Certificate of Appropriateness applications at 19 Long Hill Road for a partial roof replacement with replacing existing shingles with matching shingles and raising the roof line of the existing addition and replace existing windows. The members approved of the first application and the second was approved with a stipulation that the applicant provides the members with the materials and design of the replacement windows and door on the addition. The members briefly discussed the lighting issue at 23 Knowles Road and a temporary garage in the front yard of a house on Route 151.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met on February 1. The members approved the addition of a full time Program Manager position. Members received an update from the Air Line Trail Subcommittee. Greenplay will join an upcoming meeting to discuss survey results. Jeremy Hall outlined all of the current fee structures in place. A Memorandum of Understanding for Wesleyan Sailing was approved.

Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission met on February 2.

Public Hearings:

- A. Amendment to Zoning Regulations - Sections 2.2, 4.1.B, 4.2.B, 4.3.B, 4.4.B and Addition of Section 8.4.O and 8.4.P to allow for Home Occupations and Home-Based Businesses Rowland Rux made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to the March 2, 2022 meeting. Kevin Kuhr seconded the motions. Vote: 7-0
- B. Enact Opt-Out Provision for Accessory Dwelling Units as Provided for in Section 6(f) of Public Act 21-29. Rowland Rux made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to the March 2, 2022 meeting. Kevin Kuhr seconded the motions. Vote: 7-0

Old Business:

- A. Application PZC-21-021: Global 66, LLC, 265 West High St., Site Plan Modification, Map 6/Block 12/Lot 9. Kevin Kuhr made a motion to approve the application with conditions. Rowland Rux seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

Water Pollution Control Authority

The East Hampton WPCA Board met on February 1 via Zoom. The WPCA Board reviewed and discussed the recommended operating and revenue budget for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Any changes or corrections will be made at the March 1, 2022 meeting. Jeremy DeCarli, Planning & Zoning Official attended the meeting to discuss the Town's POCD and potential future sewer service areas.

Zoning Board of Appeals

No meeting