

BOARD AND COMMISSION SUMMARY JUNE 2023

Arts & Culture Commission

The Arts & Culture Commission met on June 15. Members discussed the June 17 Garden Tour/Plein Air event and the remaining funds in their budget. The Student Art was hung in the Town Hall Art Gallery for the month of June.

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance met twice in June. June 6 to deliberate and revise the budget after a failed 1st Referendum, and June 19 for their regular monthly meeting. At the regular meeting the FY 2023 Tax Suspense List was approved, the FY 2024 Motor Vehicle rate was adopted, and ongoing discussion was had in regard to the BOE FY 2023 deficit.

Brownfields Redevelopment Agency

The Brownfields Redevelopment Agency met on June 26. The members discussed the next steps for the EPA and DECD grants. There was discussion of drafting an RFP/RFQ for the grant to start the project for the properties. The members received confirmation that the dam on 3 Walnut is listed on the registry. The members plan to review the agency by-laws and look for any changes that may be needed to be discussed at the July meeting. Rachel Watkins has applied to join the agency as a member. The members also briefly discussed forming groups to help plan and initiate agency activities in the town. These groups could include a member of the public. The members decided to discuss the groups more at the July meeting.

Clean Energy Task Force

The Clean Energy Task Force met on June 6. The members discussed the Middle School roof project, the last updates of the 2023 Electric Car Show, setting a date for the next Fall Energy Fair, and canceling the July meeting. The members will be submitting an article to the Rivereast with the data and updates on the car show. An update on the car show and a couple of other projects will also be sent to the Town Council. The members were looking to book the mobile exhibit for this year's Fall Energy Fair, so the date needs to be chosen soon.

Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging met on June 8. The Senior Center Director provided an overview of events at the Senior Center including the need to cut back on some events due to a shortage in staffing. Meals on Wheels has been running efficiently and is now serving 12 people. A Lunch and Learn program will be held in September with CRT to talk about the services they offer. The Senior Center donated \$2,000 to the UR Community Cares program as it will be a valuable asset to older adults who need assistance. Reports were given from the Housing, Transportation and Health & Wellness sub-committees. A need for affordable housing especially for older adults was expressed. A request was submitted to the River Valley Transit to provide transportation to the Senior Center on Fridays for those that need rides. The Commission on Aging, Senior Center, Chatham Health and town departments are continuing to coordinate promotion of activities and programs for older adults.

Conservation-Lake Commission

The Conservation-Lake Commission met on June 8. John Tucci joined the meeting on Zoom to present a new in-lake treatment to the commission members. The members received an update on the watershed projects/ federal funding, the sub-committee report on education, the Lake Smart Program, and the advisory panel. The members reviewed and discussed the RFQ for the new limnologist. The members made a motion to approve the RFQ.

The Conservation-Lake Commission held a special meeting on June 21 to discuss the use of MetaFloc in the lake. The members approved the application of Metafloc in the lake and it will be applied by EverBlue Lakes. The final approval will go to the Town Council at their June 27 meeting.

Design Review Board

No meeting

Economic Development Commission

No meeting

Ethics Commission

No meeting

Fire Commission

The Fire Commission met on June 12. Mr. Lundquist read a prepared statement about some inaccuracies he noticed with the NFIRS reporting. To remedy the problem for the future, the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief have begun coding the run sheets so the correct information will be reported for the NFIRS. The members approved of updated motors and sensors for the garage doors and a replacement hose for the department. The members were updated on the dry hydrants, the Hyde Farm tank, the Walnut Ave water source problem, and the firehouse search committee. The 3-year contract for hose testing has ended, so the department wants to renew the contract for another term.

Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency

The Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency met on June 28.

Continued Applications:

- A. Application IW-23-011: Kevin Kiely, Flanders Road, Install pipe within intermittent water course to create a crossing. Map 26/ Block 87/ Lot 10 Chairman Wilson made a motion to determine that this project is as-of-right based on the fact that the crossing will be directly tied to the agricultural use of the property and is therefore exempt from the Wetland Regulations. Scott Hill seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

New Applications:

- A. Application IW-23-013: Vernon Poolman, 69 Blue Heron Drive, Install in-ground pool within upland review area, Map 24/ Block 64/ Lot 20/9 Scott Hill made a motion to send this application to the Duly Authorized Agent for approval. Pete Wall seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0
- B. Application IW-23-014: Princess Pocotopaug Association, Wangonk Trail, Remove boat ramp to construct seawall and side walk along Lake Pocotopaug. Map 09A/ Block 70C/ Lot 44 Dave Boule made a motion to continue the application to the July 26, 2023 regular meeting. Pete Wall seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

New Business:

- A. Election of Officers: Scott Hill made a motion to elect Josh Wilson as Chairman and Dean Kavalkovich as Vice-Chairman for the term ending June 30, 2024. Dave Boule seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

Joint Facilities

The Colchester- East Hampton Joint Facilities did not have a regular meeting in June but held a Special meeting on June 20. The Board approved authorization to Scott Clayton to enter into contracts with the State of CT DEEP to Obtain Clean Water Fund Financing. Vote: 5-0, Motion Passed

Library Advisory Board

The Library Advisory Board met on June 5. Two Public Service Associate job postings are in the process of being filled. The first round of interviews for the Library Director will be held later in June. The Friends of the Library book sale is scheduled for June 9 and 10. The Friends of the Library won a Friends of CT Libraries award. The Library of Things Collection Development and Borrowing policies were approved by the board. This will be presented to the Town Council in June for final approval. An update was provided on the CT SB 2 bill. This would allow communities in CT to designate a public library as a “sanctuary library” where books which have been banned, challenged or censored would be readily available to anyone who would like to borrow them. The bill has passed the Senate but still needs to be taken up by the House.

Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

No meeting

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met on June 6. An update was provided from the Air Line Trail Sub-Committee. National Trails Day was just completed. The Jeffrey Leith Memorial Scholarships will be presented in June. The Annual Golf Tournament and the funds that were raised were reviewed. The Parks & Rec department is working on starting an adult/senior pickleball program during the day and a potential hiking club.

Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning & Zoning Commission met on June 7.

Public Hearings:

- A. PZC-23-011: Edgewater Hill, 10 Edgewater Circle, Text Amendment regarding water requirement in MUDD zone per Sec. 6.4.D.3.d.3, Map 10A/ Block 85/ Lot 5B Ray Zatorski made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to the regular meeting of July 5, 2023. Roy Gauthier seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0 Ray Zatorski made a motion to continue the application to the regular meeting of July 5, 2023. Roy Gauthier seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0
- B. Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations Ray Zatorski made a motion to continue the Public Hearing to the regular meeting of July 5, 2023. Rowland Rux seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

New Business:

- A. PZC-23-013: M&J Bus, Inc., 9 Young Street, Special Permit to allow school bus storage per Sec. 5.3.C.6, Map 20/ Block 33/ Lot 7A Ray Zatorski made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the regular meeting of July 5, 2023. Rowland Rux seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

Old Business:

- A. PZC-23-010: Ismet Dedusaj, Lakeside Bar & Grill, 81 North Main Street, Site plan review to allow outdoor music per Sec. 5.2.B.7, Map 04A/ Block 45A/ Lot 21 Ray Zatorski made a motion to approve the application with the following conditions: (1) Outdoor music is to be acoustic, non-amplified only; and (2) outdoor music may occur Sunday through Thursday between the hours of 12:00pm and 9:00pm and on Friday and Saturday between the hours of 12:00pm and 11:00pm. Rowland Rux seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0
- B. PZC-23-012: Michael Bakaj, 37 South Main Street, a 22-lot (33 units) HOD subdivision in existing HOD Zone, Map 20 Block 51/ Lot 27 A Public Hearing was previously scheduled for July 5, 2023.

Water Pollution Control Authority

The East Hampton WPCA met on June 6. Work has begun at Royal Oaks water station on the green sand filter and bladder tank project. The spring water flushing was completed at Village Center and Royal Oaks. The Board will be reviewing the sewer connection rates in preparation for the September public hearing. The Board paused the meeting to open the public hearing on the proposed 2023-24 Water Budget and recommended water rates for the customers of the Village Center and Royal Oaks systems. The 2023-24 Water Budget was approved by the Town Council at the June 13 Town Council meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals met on June 12.

Public Hearings:

- A. ZBA-23-004: James Bansemer, 15 Tennyson Rd., Increase lot coverage from 20% to 39.3% for construction of a concrete driveway. Map 10A/ Block 81/ Lot 64 George Pfaffenbach made a motion to deny the application because there was no stated hardship. John Tuttle seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 Application denied.