

## **BOARD AND COMMISSION SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **Arts & Culture Commission**

The Arts & Culture Commission met on September 16 at the Joseph N. Goff House. Brian Corvo from the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency gave a presentation on the properties in and around the Village Center. The application for the Poet Laureate was approved by the Commission. They also reviewed their budget and upcoming expenditures.

### **Board of Finance**

The Board of Finance met on September 20 for their regularly scheduled meeting. The Board Members unanimously approved a motion to recommend to the Council that a \$400,000 transfer from revenue to the Capital Reserve Fund be made. Discussion was also had on distributing the Tax Breakdown Information Sheet in a separate mailing this fall since it was not included in the tax bill mailings.

### **Brownfields Redevelopment Agency**

The Brownfields Redevelopment Agency met on September 27. The members discussed the draft of the RFP that will be sent to Town Council for the Summit/Watrous properties. The members discussed the 1 Watrous, 13 Watrous, and 3 Walnut properties. There was also discussion of getting other agencies interested and involved in the project for the 1 and 13 Watrous properties and any future projects. Ms. Yenknier provided some information on possible grants for future projects. The grant process would begin in early 2022.

### **Clean Energy Task Force**

The Clean Energy Task Force met on September 7. The members discussed the participants of the car show event and the remaining tasks left to finish before the event date. More flyers and posters will be passed around town and the surrounding towns to gain more awareness and spread the information. The members assigned tasks to perform during the event itself.

### **Commission on Aging**

The Commission on Aging met on September 9 at the Senior Center. They discussed the upcoming launch of the senior survey scheduled for September 17 and all of the details and items that need to be completed prior to that date. The Commission also met on September 24 to discuss follow up details for the senior survey after the publication.

### **Conservation-Lake Commission**

The Conservation-Lake Commission met on September 9. The members received an unofficial presentation from John Tucci from Everblue Lakes. He gave some updates and insight about the lake and the aeration system. He suggested keeping up with the Bio Blast treatments. The members were informed about a land trust trying to obtain a piece of land to make into conservation land for a rattlesnake reserve. The members received brief updates on the federal funded projects and the next steps. The members discussed the lake level and the excessive draw down that needs to occur in the middle of October. There are various repairs needing to be made around the lake. Sears Park also has a project to construct a new boat launch and the draw down would cut a significant part of the cost from the project. There was a petition formed that 100 people signed to perform the excessive draw down so they can make needed repairs to their property along the lake shore.

### **Design Review Board**

The Design Review Board met on September 16. The members reviewed and discussed the plan review for 193 East High Street for Route 66 package store. The store will be expanded in the back for installation of walk-in coolers and in the front to give more space inside the store. The members discussed the traffic patterns and flow for the area and coming in and out of the parking lot for the package store. The members recommended the plan go back to be redesigned and reevaluated.

### **Economic Development Commission**

The Economic Development Commission held a special meeting on September 1. The members discussed the sign designs and the updated estimated cost for the signs. The members authorized the funds for the last part of the money to order the signs. It may take 3-5 weeks for delivery and installation of the signs.

The Economic Development Commission held their regular meeting on September 21. The members discussed the ongoing items under old business such as the bells on the bridge event, holiday decorations, home based business workshops, and town business recognition. The members discussed adding the Business of the Month application form to the town website to easily fill out online and submit. A certificate for Paul's and Sandy's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was drafted, and the members reviewed and approved the certificate. The commission's mission statement will be presented to the Town Council to be approved.

### **Ethics Commission**

No meeting

### **Fire Commission**

The Fire Commission held a special meeting on September 27 to take the place of their regular meeting of September 13. The members approved the purchase of 7 sets of turnout gear and 7 sets of boots & helmets. The Fire Marshal and Fire Chief provided their monthly report. All of the dry hydrants around the lake have been repaired except for American Distilling which will be complete within their schedule. The hydrant across from Cobalt Lodge is complete. There is still work to be done on the hydrant on Chestnut Hill. The ladder truck repairs are being worked on. The tankers are in production with delivery in November. The members also discussed vaccine status for members and the long range 5 and 10 year plans.

### **Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency**

The Inland Wetland Watercourses Agency met on September 29.

New Business

- A. IW-21-022: Global 66, LLC. 265 West High Street – Site Plan Modification including new drive aisle and parking area, installation of culvert to carry existing drainage, installation of a retaining wall, and new drainage facilities within the Upland Review Area. Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 9. Mr. Hill made a motion to continue Application IW-21-022 to the next regularly scheduled meeting October 27, 2021. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Wilson. Vote: 6-0
- B. IW-21-023: Christine Weidemer, 33 Bay Road – Repairs to Existing Seawall on Lake Pocotopaug and Installation of new drywell. Map 9A / Block 70/ Lot 27. Vice-Chairman Wilson made a motion to continue Application IW-21-023 to the next regularly scheduled meeting October 27, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boule. Vote: 6-0

- C. IW-21-024: Susan Woodson, 31 Bay Road – Repairs to Existing Seawall on Lake Pocotopaug. Map 91/ Block 70/ Lot 26. Vice-Chairman Wilson made a motion to continue Application IW-21-024 to the next regularly scheduled meeting October 27, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boule. Vote: 6-0

### **Joint Facilities**

The Colchester –East Hampton Joint Facilities Board met on September 21 via Zoom The force main project has been approved and is expected be completed by December 10, 2021. Due to pending materials (8 to 10 weeks), no start date has been established. The Air Line Trail is expected to be kept open during the repair work. Public notification will be posted via Colchester and East Hampton websites, Park and Recreation and local newspapers. The LED light upgrade is scheduled to being in October. The Board approved the agreed upon Joint Facilities union contract. Vote 5-0, Motion Passed

### **Library Advisory Board**

The Library Advisory Board met on September 13. Members discussed the space planning project. They reviewed a Master Planning Study and a Program Study for Potential Growth from 4D Design and Decorating.

### **Middle Haddam Historic District Commission**

The Middle Haddam Historic District Commission met on September 23. The members reviewed and discussed the application for applicants Bryna Linett and Peter Shapiro. The members approved of the application as presented.

### **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met on September 7. A presentation was given by Art Thatcher from Greenplay on a master plan/needs assessment process. An application has been received for a memorial bench at Sears Park. The members received updates from the Air Line Trail Sub-Committee, the HS Athletic Fields Committee and the Seamster Park Playground Committee. There was also discussion of the Air Line Trail Ghost Run being held this season.

### **Planning & Zoning Commission**

The Planning & Zoning Commission met on September 1.

Tom Heidel for Middlesex Land Trust: Request for Support of grant application for Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant. Middlesex Land Trust is planning to acquire 147 acres, specifically 1.8 acres within East Hampton by applying for a grant. This grant could pay 50-60% of the purchase price. Chairman Zatorski made a motion for a letter by the Commission of support to the Rattlesnake Brook Preserve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sennett. Vote: 7-Yes; 0-No.

### **Public Hearings:**

- A. Application PZC-21-014: Martin Scovill, 117 Colchester Ave., Re-subdivision for 3 lots in R4 Zone. Map 27/ Block 87A/ Lot 12A-4. Approved.
- B. Application PZC-21-015: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Rd., Special Permit for Veterinary Clinic per Sections 4.2 and 8.4.N. Map 01C/Block 9/Lot 5. Approved.
- C. Application PZC-21-016 Nancy Donald, Robert and Sue Briere, 91-93 Lake Dr., 2 Lot Subdivision at 91-93 Lake Drive in R1 Zone. Map 25/Block 64/Lot 56. Approved.

#### New Business:

- A. Application PZC-21-017: Kim Novak, 26 Lakeview St., Zone Change: Commercial to R1. Map 05A/Block85/Lot 18A. Public Hearing Set.
- B. Application PZC- 21-018: Tushar Shah, 193 East High St., Site Plan Modification in C Zone, Sec. 5.2B. Map 09A/Block 76/Lot11-5. Public Hearing Set.
- C. Application PZC- 21-019: Global 66, LLC, 265 West High St., Special Permit to convert a portion of Sports on 66 into storage units in C Zone, Sec. 5.2C. Map 6/Block 12/Lot 9. Public Hearing Set.
- D. Application PZC-21-020: Warren Scott Cross, 201 West High St., Special permit to open a brewery/taproom in the C Zone, Sec 5.2C. Map 12/Block 36/Lot 3-1. Public Hearing Set.

#### **Water Pollution Control Authority**

The Water Pollution Control Authority Board met on September 7 via Zoom. The Pine Trail and North Main force main replacement projects will be deferred to 2022. The engineering company is looking at possibly lining the 4” pipe for Pine Trail because of the close proximity to the lake. The owner of 13 Summit Street has voiced his concerns regarding his outstanding sewer use charges. The outstanding bills run from 2012 to 2019 at approximately \$60,461.00. Over the period noted the property owner has not reached out to the WPCA regarding these charges and any possibly solutions. The Board denied the request to waive the outstanding sewer use fees. Vote: 5-0, Motion Passed. A virtual Public Hearing was held on September 7 to allow property owners to be heard regarding the proposed annual sewer use rates effective on October 1, 2021. No public was present. The proposed sewer rate increase would be \$520.00/EDU and for those properties served by grinder pumps maintained by the WPCA the WPCA fee will increase to \$200.00/EDU totaling \$720.00. Vote: 6-0. Motion Passed.

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

No meeting