



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order: 6:36 pm, Land Use Office, Room 324, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members: Tomasz Kalinowski, Dan McGuinness, Robert DeMallie, Jim Fedorich, Christine Altman (Arrived 6:39) & staff Jeremy Leifert

Members Absent: None

Members of the public: Catherine Mollica and Gerald Barth, residents of Notting Hill Gate

3. Election of Officers:

J. Leifert stated that election of officers for the next term should typically be held in the first meeting after new terms begin. Commissions should at minimum have a chair and vice-chair. Existing members have been reappointed since the last meeting for new terms.

Motion to postpone election of Commission Chair to later in the meeting was made by T. Kalinowski and seconded by D. McGuinness. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to nominate and confirm T. Kalinowski as Vice-Chair was made by J. Fedorich and seconded by D. McGuinness. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Altman arrived at 6:39. Commission chairperson nomination was taken up at this time.

Motion to nominate and confirm C. Altman as Chair was made by J. Fedorich and seconded by T. Kalinowski. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Minutes: October 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting as presented was made by T. Kalinowski and seconded by R. DeMallie. Motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business:

- a. Review of P&Z Site Plan #1324, Notting Hill Gate/Wimbledon Gate North, Site Development for 120 apartment units in 4 buildings

J. Leifert presented a set of development plans as well as a referral letter from Peter Herbst, Attorney for the developer. Also distributed was a letter from Peter Olsen, Attorney for Catherine Mollica and the Association at Greenbriar and preliminary comments from Michael Klemens, an ecological land use expert retained by the Association.

Mr. Leifert presented a standard checklist of questions to aid in review of the application. Discussion ensued on the project and areas of concern from the conservation commission. Concerns discussed were: lack of a

stormwater management plan for review to date, limiting development on steep slopes, preservation of native shrublands on the property for wildlife habitat, control of invasive plants, vernal pool studies on the site, preservation of prime agricultural soils, identification of historic resources, and the use of Low Impact Development techniques.

The commission discussed conducting a site walk on the property, and will tentatively schedule Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 2:00 pm, pending contact by staff with the applicants' representatives to confirm.

Discussion also ensued of a special meeting to finalize comments to the planning and zoning commission were also discussed.

Motion to schedule a Conservation Commission site walk for the Notting Hill Gate/Wimbledon Gate North properties subject to P&Z site plan application #1324 on Sunday, January 19, 2020 at 2:00 at the dead end of Wimbledon Gate North and to schedule a special meeting of the Conservation Commission on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the Land Use Office, made by D. McGuiness and seconded by R. DeMallie. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business:

a. Continued discussion of Open Space Parcel Inventory

The commission members and staff reviewed the open space map and discussed scheduling for site inspections for City-owned open space and which properties to inspect. The Commission identified the southeast area of the city as an area to concentrate on completing through the winter as the weather allows. J. Leifert will send out a form notice to abutting property owners to let them know that members will be walking nearby properties. J. Leifert will follow up with commissioners individually on availability to conduct site inspection.

7. Communications:

- a. Record of meeting – November 14, 2019 (no quorum) - No formal acceptance of the meeting record was needed since no quorum was present at the November meeting and no decisions were made.
- b. CACIWC Conference Summary – Saturday, Nov 23, 2019 - This item will be carried over to the next regular meeting.
- c. 2020 Meeting Schedule – distributed to members
- d. 2019 Annual Conservation Commission Report – J. Leifert solicited comments from the Commission via email, and the 2019 annual report was submitted at the end of December. Discussion ensued on the governing state statute requiring the annual report. A copy of the final report was distributed to commissioners.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by T. Kalinowski and seconded by D. McGuiness. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.