

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING

The meeting was conducted exclusively as a virtual meeting, pursuant to emergency Executive Orders Nos. [7B](#) and [7I](#), and in accordance with the Town Plan and Zoning Commission Rules and Regulations for the Transaction of Business.

The Commission was called to order at 7:05 PM.

1. Roll Call, members present: Matt Macunas, Emilee Scott (recused from items 3a. and 3b.), Ted Newton, Rick Bush, Shawn Daly, and Jessica Schaeffer-Helmecki

2. Old Business: E. Scott moved to adopt the January 27, 2020 minutes and T. Newton seconded; by voice vote motion passed, with abstention by Daly (not seated to the commission by that date).

3. New Business:

- a. 37 Buena Vista Road (IWW# 1126, set for IWW public hearing on Sept. 9, 2020) Julie Viera, P.E. (Civil Engineer II, Engineering Division, West Hartford) represented the town in its request for an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to dredge and restore a portion of the Trout Brook open channel located at the Buena Vista Recreation Facility. The applicant testified that:
- dredging would be limited to the bottom of the channel and the applicant would notify the commission of any further maintenance that would trigger review,
 - vegetative growth is restricting the flow of the channel and impeding Woodridge Lake Association's planned annual drainage,
 - the channel has not been dredged in at least seven years,
 - as far as they know, the overflow from the channel into the pond has had no deleterious effects on the pond,
 - at the request of the West Hartford / Bloomfield Health Department, a rodent survey by a pest control expert is being initiated at projected cost of \$30k, and
 - a soil analysis report was completed, the cross-section profile of which was shown to the Commission.

It was inconclusive whether approval of this application for one-time work activity would also carry forward into ongoing maintenance activity.

- b. Report of current status of rodent problem at the former University of Connecticut Campus – the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District Director Aimee Kraus submitted an e-mail stating that the pest issue appeared to be improving and no infestation could be tied to the lot.

Commissioner Daly noted that while the area has improved, refuse has been observed in the pond. The Commission expressed interest in continuing to know the existence of complaints, and affirmed interest in getting briefed by the Health District at a future meeting.

- c. Discussion on exploration of electrification of Town of West Hartford School Bus Fleet. Chairman Macunas provided a formal presentation outlining the environmental advantages of transitioning the town's contracted school bus fleet to the use of electric drivetrains, using an optional and phased approach through the inclusion of RFP bid provisions applying to the next contract cycle. Commissioner Newton expressed support while inquiring as to alternatives such as other alternative fuels as well as anti-idling practices. Commissioner Daly noted observations of conflictual data on the environmental benefit of transportation electrification. The commission determined that in order to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of legacy or alternative fuel types for school buses, invitations would be extended to respective experts to brief the commission at a future virtual meeting. These may include representatives for diesel, propane, and electricity fuels, as well as other solutions providers.

4. Meeting Adjournment at 8:21 P.M.