

**Town of West Hartford
Conservation and Environment Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2020, 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers, Room 314**

1. Roll Call, Commission members present
Emilee Scott, Liz Wilcox, Matt Macunas, Richard Bush, Ted Newton

2. Guest Speakers:

Kathy Golas, a representative from Greater Hartford League of Women Voters, spoke regarding the League's supportive policy statements on the expansion of the state's bottle bill policy. The Commission determined that by its February meeting it would consider whether to support this legislation and in what manner.

3. New Business:

- **1800 Asylum Avenue** – Application (IWW #1119) of Bestech Inc. on behalf of Fintech Village, LLC c/o Ideanomics, Inc. (R.O.) requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities which may have an adverse impact on a wetlands regulated area. The requested activities include the abatement and removal of the former Library building and adjacent soils. A portion of the proposed activities are within wetland soils and a 150' upland review area.

Applicant represented by Design Professionals staff Peter DeMallie and Rachel Meyer, accompanied by Bestech staff Bob Sullivan and Brian LeFave. Applicant represented that 35 sq. ft. of disturbance would occur in the regulated area, amid the larger site activity. The Commission reviewed materials posted to TPZ and made inquiries on erosion control measures, project sequencing and soil remediation measures.

- **1422 New Britain Avenue – WVIT Channel 30**, R.O., represented by Milone and MacBroom, requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit to conduct certain regulated activities which may have an adverse impact on a wetland regulated area. The applicant is proposing modifications to the parking area for an increase of 21 parking spaces for a new total of 134 spaces.. The proposed site improvements include a new retaining wall, drainage modifications to include a new infiltration system. Also proposed are modifications to the existing landscaping and proposed new landscape screening of the modified parking area. The proposed project takes place within the 150' upland review area.

Joe Urso of Milone and MacBroom presented. This application seeks property parking additions, prompted by WVIT's addition of Telemundo and new weather-tracking vehicles. Impervious surface would increase by 3,600 sq. ft. amid 7180 sq. ft. of total disturbance protected by silt fence. This would be offset by the property's self-contained underground water retention system – essentially large, plastic-bottomed containers beneath the parking surface. Three existing splash pads on the western side of the property are viewed as currently having adequate size to accommodate a 100-year storm. Several tree removals bounding the existing parking perimeter are proposed, all for trees under 10 inches diameter and planted during the original site work. Norway Maples are contemplated as screening plantings for neighbors on the north side.

4. Other Business - Members traded thoughts on the Town's draft Plan of Conservation and Development.

5. Meeting Adjournment – followed by delegation of CEC members attending the remainder of 1/27/20 Clean Energy Commission. Discussion items included:
 - a. The possibility of a designee appointed from town staff.
 - b. The allowance of business referrals between the two commissions as deemed germane to each commission's charge.
 - c. The intent over the coming months to have some or all of the Conservation and Environment Commission adjourn to join the Clean Energy Commission meetings for joint planning, as both commissions have simultaneous meeting dates.