

**Enfield Conservation Commission – Special Meeting  
Minutes**

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/MICROSOFT  
TEAMS PLATFORM  
December 27, 2022**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Leigh Davis, Shirley Green  
(Vice-Chair), Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Whitney Banker-Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:** None.

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Warrant Article for Town Forest**

Chair Theis said they had received enough signatures to petition for a warrant article to establish a town forest. The article will be voted on Saturday, March 18, at the in-person session of Town Meeting 2023.

**B. Warrant Article for 150' Setback from Prime Wetlands**

Chair Theis said that when the prime wetlands were established in 1997, there was a 100' setback in effect that all maps currently show. For 150' setbacks, all new maps would need to be created, which would be costly. Planning Board Chair Fracht suggested proposing 100' as the setback, which the Planning Board will submit.

Chair Theis read the suggested article language from Planning Board Chair Fracht.

Chair Theis said a 100' setback would only clear 70% of the pollutants before reaching the wetland. If the Conservation Commission sets aside enough money for remapping, they could consider a future article for a vote on a 150' setback. For now, members agreed the 100' setback was a good article with no remapping costs for the 2023 meeting.

Mr. Welenc suggested they may wish to define the five prime wetlands as part of the language in the warrant article for community members voting to understand.

As this is presented tomorrow at the Planning Board meeting, the language will go on the warrant article if they approve it. It is now too late to petition for a zoning change to be on the warrant.

**Mr. Smith MOVED to accept the warrant article as written by Planning Board Chair David Fracht.**

**Seconded by Mr. Welenc**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Leah Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.**

**None voted Nay.**

**None Abstained.**

**\* The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0).**

**C. Warrant Article Petition Signatures Needed – 10% of Current Use fees to Conservation Fund**

Chair Theis said that the Selectboard had questions about the Conservation Commission getting funds and explaining what it will be used for. Town Manager Morris checked with town counsel, who confirmed that funds that belong to the Conservation Commission do not require further approval from the Selectboard.

Mr. Smith said that he felt they would need to explain how they will use the funds, and community members would want to know how the money will be used (even if they are not required by law to explain or plan for the funds).

Chair Theis read the warrant article language, which would go toward maintaining trails and conservation areas. He said the proposal is for 10% of the Current Use fees up to \$5k per year.

Over the last few years, the town's collection of Current Use fees has been significant; in 2020, the amount collected was over \$46k, and in 2021 the amount collected was over \$48k.

Canaan Conservation Commission gets all the town's current use fees up to \$5k annually.

Grafton Conservation Commission gets all the town's current use fees.

Plainfield Conservation Commission gets all the town's current use fees.

Springfield Conservation Commission gets all the town's current use fees.

Conservation Commission members must present the article as a petitioned warrant article at the meeting.

Mr. Welenc asked for clarification that this money is paid when a property is changed out of current use. Chair Theis confirmed.

Ms. Green asked if Chair Theis could provide talking points to Conservation Commission members ahead of the March 18, 2023, Town Meeting session.

Chair Theis provided petition forms to members. Chair Theis said every member should aim to get nine signatures in their neighborhoods.

Chair Theis shared Selectboard comments about the Conservation Commission warrant articles.

Chair Theis asked members to email him suggestions for justifying the 10% of current use fees to be included in a future letter.

The deadline to submit the petition article with signatures is February 7. Chair Theis asked to have the completed signature forms back to him by the end of January.

### **III. NEXT MEETING:** November 3, 2022

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

***Chair Theis MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m.***

***Seconded by Mr. Welenc***

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Leah Davis, Shirley Green (Vice-Chair), Doug Smith, Jerold Theis (Chair), John Welenc all voting Yea.**

**None voted Nay.**

**None Abstained.**

***\* The Vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0).***

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Banker

Recording Secretary