



CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
**City of Ansonia**  
CONNECTICUT 06401

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

March 17, 2015

Regular Meeting

Present: William Urban, Chairman  
Frank Pergola  
Joseph Cassetti

Absent: John Jones  
Tim Holman

Others present: Randy Carroll  
Joan Radin, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Urban.

There was a quorum present.

### Minutes

Mr. Pergola made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 regular meeting and organizational meeting. Mr. Joe Cassetti seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### Bills

Mr. Joe Cassetti made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

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## **Correspondence**

None

## **Public Session**

Chairman Urban asked Alderwoman Radin about the Anaerobic Plant and the Ansonia Copper & Brass building.

Alderwoman Radin said she was very active a few years ago regarding the Anaerobic Plant. She said it was supposed to produce five (5) megawatts of energy. At that time the Board of Aldermen approved the Mayor signing papers to go ahead with the plant however nothing has happened in a long time. She said she had questions to ask at their last public session and was told by the moderator that you can only ask one question because they wanted to give everyone a chance to ask questions.

Mr. Pergola said he was at that meeting and the lawyer for their Corporation said they were doing us a courtesy by having this meeting. Their lawyer said they didn't have to be here.

Alderwoman Radin said the original paperwork is different from the next meeting's paperwork.

Mr. Carroll said it went from five (5) megawatts to two (2) megawatts.

Alderwoman Radin said their lawyer said you ask all the questions and we'll answer them at the end. The questions were never answered. She said she started a petition and brought people into the meetings. She said she spoke with the Supt. of WPCA and he prepared a report. The report said it will cost Ansonia more money to do this. They were going to let their water into our plant and that water was not pure. The water has to be pure so we would have to purchase much more chemicals to purify the water.

Mr. Carroll said it would cost \$320,000 more to purify the water through the WPCA plant. The Supt. said with all the sludge put into the WPCA plant we will not have enough room and we would have to expand our plant. This is the same land as the proposed power plant is on so expansion would be impossible.

Alderwoman Radin said they said they have to talk to Derby. They would be bringing in six to eight trucks between 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Division Street.

Mr. Carroll said that the truck total was ten tandem trucks.

Alderwoman Radin said there would be a lot of wear and tear on the roads. There are a lot of restaurants and eating places on Division Street. The truck loads are garbage and the smell of the garbage is horrific. There would also be wear and tear on the Public Works property. There are school buses and a lot of vehicles that use Division Street. People using the stores and

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restaurants don't want the smell of the garbage. They have changed the contract and there is a lot of speculation and we should no longer be interested in doing the plant. She said she asked about the Anaerobic Plant at the Board of Aldermen's meeting and was told that it would be discussed at the next meeting and this is the third month since that meeting and nothing has been discussed.

There was discussion on the contract deadlines and that the contract that was signed has expired and cannot be used. Mr. Carroll brought up that at the time there were no other towns interested in having this type of facility in their town. He said Bridgeport and New Haven have recently expressed interest in them. Mr. Carroll said there is nothing on the website for Greenpoint. He said they stated there are two plants in North America, one in Canada and one in Disney World. Mr. Carroll said the Disney World plant is there and it is located on 40 acres and there is a lot of food waste generated at Disney World to keep the plant operating.

Discussion continued on the agreements for the Anaerobic Plant and Mr. Carroll said the time limit for the plant was February 1, 2015. He said the contract wasn't signed so it is null and void. Mr. Joe Cassetti said the contract did not seem to benefit to the City.

Chairman Urban asked what the reason was to entertain this plant in the first place.

Alderwoman Radin said they wanted electricity for the bank, Stop & Shop Grocery and Gas Station and Public Works complex and any extra energy would go to the City of Ansonia.

Mr. Carroll said the idea was that in an emergency there would be one central place where there would be energy i.e. for gas, food, sewer plant, etc. should the City lose power.

There was a discussion on the following: the cost to dispose of the sludge from the Sewer Treatment Plant. The Anaerobic Digestive Plant was originally supposed to process sewer sludge. Greenpoint would sell the power to the City of Ansonia, there would be trucks (tandem trailers) bringing in the garbage for the plant, there will be generators that will burn the methane produced. After the burning there will be five (5) tons of pollution into the air a year. The methane tanks were 65 feet high and there would be one generator in there. There were no tipping fees but that would not be part of the package there were no tipping fees included in the presentation. There was not enough information for anyone to make a good judgement.

Alderwoman Radin said at the December Board of Aldermen meeting she said that six to eight questions were asked and there was no questions and no answers in the Board of Aldermen minutes regarding those questions and answers. Alderwoman Radin asked the secretary of the Board of Aldermen where is the section on the discussion with Greenpoint. She said that she could not understand his answers and didn't put the questions down.

Mr. Joe Cassetti said she should have recorded the questions and put inaudible for the answers.

Mr. Carroll asked how this is going to be funded – private capital.

Alderwoman Radin said private capital or possibly grants.

Mr. Carroll said at this time there is nothing allotted.

Mr. Pergola said that this project was started before Mayor Cassetti and apparently no one can get the answers. He asked “who is pushing this?”

Alderwoman Radin said Greenpoint was brought into town by previous aldermen and they were pushing it.

Mr. Pergola said he is amazed that we are still discussing this.

Mr. Carroll said this all happened two months ago and Conservation hasn't had any meetings for the last two months due to weather to discuss the plant.

Chairman Urban asked if there is anything else.

Mr. Carroll said Dave Blackwell questioned the methane tanks and the height.

Chairman Urban said that it requires a permit from DEEP Solid Waste division.

Mr. Carroll read the list of who they need to get permits from. He said at this point it is a dead issue.

Chairman Urban said he agrees with Mr. Carroll on the surface but what lies below the surface??

Mr. Carroll said in case it is brought back, the Conservation Commission should be aware of what they want to do and involved in the discussion.

Alderwoman Radin said the question she asked was traffic (trailer trucks) coming from the north, it is fine to make the turn but traffic (trailer trucks) coming from the south – “how are they going to do this”. She said she is thinking of the people living there.

Mr. Pergola said 25 – 30 years ago they were trying to put in a trash plant there. A Bristol man said it pollutes the air and it stinks. Those comments turned it around.

There was discussion on where the material/garbage would be generated and where it would come from. Chairman Urban said he thought the garbage was from New York and would go to a rendering plant. Alderwoman Radin said maybe she misunderstood but she thought the trucks would stop and pick up material from different places. Big institutions generate food product that could be used. Chairman Urban said all foods can be recycled.

Mr. Carroll suggested that the Conservation Commission delay action on the plant until more information is received.

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Aldерwoman Radin said at the January Board of Aldermen's meeting she was told that they would talk about it next month and they didn't. Mr. Carroll said the contract was to February 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 so now it is null and void.

### Brownfields

Mr. Carroll said the City hired Arthur Bogan from the CT Brownfield Land Bank Inc. to give the City of Ansonia environmental guidance for the demolition of Ansonia Copper & Brass.

Aldерwoman Radin said Ansonia is one of his first clients.

Mr. Bogan is an expert on Brownfield remediation. He worked for the Regional Planning Agency and is very knowledgeable in brownfields.

Mr. Carroll and Mr. Joe Cassetti said they remember him working on other brownfield projects in the City. He handled the federal brownfield grants.

There was discussion on the Valley Council of Governments and how it has been changed and that it merged with the Greater Waterbury Council of Governments. The Waterbury COG now has 19 member towns. They have hired Rick Dunne as their Executive Director. Mr. Dunn served in that capacity for COG/RPA. Mr. Dunne is very effective and a good resource.

Mr. Carroll said the last thing he has to report on is he met with Mr. Scinto and a representative from Farrel's on the installation of picnic tables and chairs in the Fountain Lake Park. The Farrel representative said he will put in picnic tables and chairs for the employees who work in the Commerce Park so they can eat their lunch at the park.

### Boy Scouts of America

Aldерwoman Radin said that there will be a presentation to ARMS at the Board of Aldermen meeting from the Housatonic Council of Boy Scouts.

She said that ARMS Chief Heon will be receiving this award for all their support at the Boy Scout activities.

Mr. Carroll said that the Historical Commission sponsored a Boy Scout for Eagle Scout. He said if the Conservation Commission is willing to sponsor an Eagle Scout he is willing to help them.

Chairman Urban said the commission needs a short list of what has to be done.

Mr. Carroll said he has tried to get in touch with the Seymour Land Trust. He said it would be helpful if Mayor Cassetti would contact Seymour's First Selectman and ask if one of our commissioners could sit on the Seymour Land Trust Board to keep us in touch with what is

happening. He asked that the Conservation Commission write a letter asking to have someone from this commission sit on their Board.

The Commissioners discussed the Seymour Land Trust and Ansonia's open space that is in the Land Trust. Mr. Carroll said that the Land Trust has an enforcement policy and can protect any parcel that is being destroyed by people that are misusing the property. It is for passive recreation and not riding dirt bikes, four wheelers, etc. Mr. Joe Cassetti agreed with Mr. Carroll that we have to protect the open space land. Mr. Carroll discussed the proposed Hill Street purchase by the Board of Aldermen for open space. Mr. Carroll also stated that he and Chairman Urban worked with a property owner on a piece of property on Pulaski Highway near the Firehouse for open space.

Mr. Pergola made a motion to send a letter to Mayor Cassetti asking that he re-appoint Randy Carroll to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Joe Cassetti seconded. All in favor, so carried.

There was a discussion on the ownership of Fountain Lake open space and Mr. Cassetti stated the City of Ansonia owns the land and the Seymour Land Trust administers it.

Mr. Pergola asked the ownership of the open land on Rt. 311 in Seymour.

Mr. Joe Cassetti said the land is in Seymour however Ansonia owns it. It is the keystone corner that brings all of the open space in that area together.

Chairman Urban suggested Conservation Commission invite Arthur Bogan to come to a meeting and tell the Commission what is going on at the Ansonia Copper & Brass site.

#### **Other business to come before the Commission**

None

#### **Adjourn**

Mr. Pergola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Joe Cassetti seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary

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