



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

29 North Street • P.O. Box 203 • Roxbury, CT 06783-0203

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2018 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes PhD, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Russ Pribanic (A) and Kim Cartwright (A)

Members Absent: Timothy Flanagan (A)

GUESTS

Margaret Miner of the HVA and Robert Woodside of Southbury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 10th meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Trudy Swenson. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT, GUESTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Robert Woodside stated he was present as an observer to see how other towns besides Southbury handle trails, trail access and trail parking.

Margaret Miner's comments follow under appropriate topic headings.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Commission Summaries

Nothing applicable to the interests of the Conservation Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainability Program

Gary Steinman reported that a majority of Commission members attended the Town Hall meeting on January 30th. The Sustainable CT Program outlines action items in nine categories. The town needs to complete one action item in every group in order to attain certification in either a Bronze or Silver level with different items have different tally scores. This grassroots program is for the betterment of a community in ways particular to each municipality and for the ultimate benefit of the state. The next meeting is at noon on February 27th at Town Hall.

Town Wants to Know

The next program is scheduled for March 11 at the Minor Memorial Library and in conjunction with publicity e-blasts to residents will be sent. The topic is "A Healthy Lawn and A Healthy Aquifer".

Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson reported the Trail will be officially opened on CT Trails Day, June 2nd with a rain date of June 3rd. Trudy has been in contact with Barbara Henry, the family and the donors. There will be a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting. Gary Steinman will talk to the Booth School administration and ask for suggestions how the trail can best be enhanced for educational purposes. Town crew chain saw help will be enlisted and additional mulch will be delivered by the Lenahan's and spread by volunteers.

Blight Ordinance

A conceptual draft will be prepared for the next meeting as a basis for members to begin commenting. Margaret Miner suggested the ordinance be more focused on environmental impact by the removal of toxic debris in order

to eliminate the source of contamination and with remediation as deemed feasible. Margaret said that most of the Blight Ordinances were designed for cities. It was suggested the ordinance be more on the order of Health, Safety and Environmental Protection as opposed to a Blight Ordinance.

Thank You to Wayne Ferris

A photo and brief article of the thank-you presentation to Wayne Ferris appeared in the recent Voices newspaper.

Recycling

Kim Cartwright said Jennifer Heaton-Jones, an expert in recycling, will join the March commission meeting. Albert of the Transfer Station will also be in attendance to explain the nuts-and-bolts operation at the transfer station.

Budget

Gary Steinman said \$500 remained in this year's budget. For the next fiscal year the amount requested is \$1500. A Capital budget for acquiring and installing an aeration system for the Town Pond (which is to be cleaned by the Land Trust) is approximately \$5,000 with the possibility of obtaining funding via an EPOCH grant.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled. Ron Faanes said he marveled at European clean energy facilities. Solar fields covered parking lots and wind farms were everywhere.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-Housing Article

Trudy Swenson had circulated by email an interesting article from the New York Time regarding multi-generational housing. Trudy was asked to research the author for a possible talk to the Conservation Commission.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/20/business/cohousing-communities.html>

Conservation Conference

Ron Faanes, Gary Steinman, Kim Cartwright and possibly Trudy Swenson will be attending the conference on March 17.

Ceil Santillo resignation

The Conservation Commission accepted the resignation of Cecelia Santillo with sadness and her down-to-earth wisdom will be missed. However ... Ceil has said she will be available for specific projects in the future.

Public Water Trust

Margaret Miner stated that Connecticut deems water as a Public Trust Resource. She also talked about property currently up for development having a wealth of natural resources and as much as possible should be conserved. There is legislation proposed for "Sewage Right To Know" to notify potentially affected residents of sewage dumping and industrial dumping should be included as well. Teresa Roxburgh informed Gary Steinman about the Public Water Trust Movie which can be seen online. Members are asked to view the movie to discuss at the next meeting if it's suitable for a future town event. <http://www.saveourwaterct.org/host-a-tapped-party.html>

MEMBER COMMENT

As above

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

The above minutes are not official until approved by the Commission members at the next meeting