



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 11, 2018 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes PhD, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Russ Pribanic, Timothy Flanagan (A), Kim Cartwright (A) and Jessyka Patterson of the Sustainable CT Committee.

Members Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 14th meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Trudy Swenson. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

GUESTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Gary Steinman distributed copies of the Grant Application to the Environmental Professionals' Organization of Connecticut for the installation of a solar-powered aeration system at the Town Pond once the pond has been cleared of invasive plants by the Roxbury Land Trust in cooperation with the town. Total cost of the project is \$5,000.

Commission Summaries

- Zoning Commission

Air B & B's, an unregulated activity, is a major section of interest. Homes are being purchased for short-term rentals as investment properties without owners living there. Regular B & B's are owner occupied whereas Air B & B's are not.

Zone A possible regulation changes to potentially allow for smaller lots with smaller houses and hence allegedly more affordable residences. Cautionary recommendation was suggested to insure town is in sync with this concept for the center of town before too much time is invested and to discover if existing abutting property owners would not be in opposition. Zone A had previously been 2 acres.

OLD BUSINESS

Sustainability Program

Jessyka Patterson reported Roxbury is well into the acquisition of points to achieve designation as a Sustainable Community. Attendance at the Conservation Conference earns points under "Equity Training". The next meeting is March 24th at Town Hall.

Town Wants to Know

Ron Faanes suggested a presentation on Forests – how forests evolve and survive and the effects of invasive plants – might be a presentation to tie in with the official opening of Joey's Trail.

Tick Spraying

Jessyka Patterson and Kim Cartwright are preparing data on tick-reduction companies using non-poisonous elements.

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. Kim Cartwright will construct two rustic wooden signs identifying Joey's Trail. Liz of Earth Tones has offered to walk through the trail to create a scheme for a naturalistic garden along the trail.

Environmental Health, Safety and Rights of Private Property Ownership Ordinance

Ron Faanes asked Commission members if the draft for an Environmental Ordinance be sent to the Board of Selectman and all member responded affirmatively.

Budget

The remaining funds of approximately \$400 will be used in the further development of Joey's Trail.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled.

Co-Housing Article

As follow-up to the article from the New York Time regarding multi-generational housing that Trudy Swenson had brought before the Commission, it was decided to find a representative from the project in North Haven to speak at a future regular Commission meeting.

Conservation Conference

Ron Faanes, Gary Steinman and Kim Cartwright were among the 450 people who attended the conference at Wesleyan on March 17th. The keynote speaker focused on the climate change effects on droughts and flooding with expected wetter Springs and higher rivers. Roxbury is already practicing most of the pertinent recommended activities.

Margaret Miner was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

NEW BUSINESS

POCD Revision

Since Town Character and Conservation are two of the major aspects of the Conservation Commission, it was deemed appropriate to find out what residents want to see for their community. An electronic survey will be developed to present to the Selectmen and the Planning Commission.

Dear Crabby Q & A Column

Gary Steinman announced the Dear Crabby column has been approved for revival and shared proposed tips to publish regarding non-toxic ways to rid problematic weeds. Jessyka Patterson will be drafting tips for the eBlasts.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 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