



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MAY 9, 2018 MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson, Russ Pribanic.

Guests: Bill Horrigan

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections to the minutes of the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were as follows:

- Jessyka Patterson and Trudy Swenson (not Kim Cartwright) are preparing data on tick-reduction companies using non-poisonous elements.
- The next meeting of the Sustainability Committee was April (not March) 24th at Town Hall.
- A motion was made by Kim Cartwright and seconded by Gary Steinman to accept the minutes as amended which were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

None

### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Gary Steinman distributed flyers on the upcoming Conference on the Water Supply in Western CT presented by the Rivers Alliance of CT. The conference will be on May 18th from 9 am to 2:30 pm at the Roxbury Town Hall, registration is required.

#### Commission Summaries

Planning Commission: Peter Filous has proposed forming a Steering Committee for the POCD process and proposed a committee be developed from members of the Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands and the Historic District Commissions. Gary Steinman said it was an unintended oversight and that a member of the Conservation Commission was to be included as well.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Sustainability Program

Kim Cartwright reported that Roxbury has already documented 133 of the 200 points and expects to be well over the required 200 points for a Sustainable Community designation. Gary Steinman said that feedback was requested for ways to improve the program and Gary had suggested that Roxbury, being an innovative, ahead-of-the-curve community, had already completed some action items prior to the three-year-back time period allotted and therefore those action points should be included. The Sustainability group will meet again on May 22nd.

#### Town Wants to Know

Ron Faanes said the presentation date on "The Structure of Forests" is to be determined. Kyle of Earth Tones could be one of the speakers.

#### Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson emailed a comprehensive update to members knowing she could not make this meeting. There will be 4 trail work days on Saturday mornings, May 12, 19, and 26, 9 AM to 1 PM and June 2, 10 AM to 2 PM. Trail work will be brush removal, removal of invasive shrubs (notably barberry and multiflora) along with mulch

spreading. If time and manpower suffice, remaining projects to be completed are the Tranquility Garden planting, a possible small boardwalk to be built near the bench, and the rebuilding of the stonewall at the Senior Center field entrance. Trudy is working on enhancing the aerial map which has been reduced to a workable size by Jimmy Hurlbut. Kim Cartwright has created three large trail entrance signs and directional arrows. The Opening Ceremony will be on June 2 at 2 p.m. with light refreshments and a short dedication by Barbara Henry.

Environmental Health, Safety and Rights of Private Property Ownership Ordinance Gary Steinman will present the draft of the ordinance to the Board of Selectman.

#### POCD Revision

Town Character and Conservation are two major concerns of the Conservation Commission and members want Roxburians to have the opportunity to voice how they would like to see Roxbury in the future. Three dates will be set for some time in June, in late July and in September for open discussions to be held at the Town Hall. A 'Survey Monkey' is being developed for residents to respond electronically.

#### Budget

The remaining funds of approximately \$400 will be used in the further development of Joey's Trail. Monies will be spent for purchasing native, shade-loving plants from Earth Tones and topsoil from Lenahan Mulch.

#### The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman met with a solar-power contractor regarding an installation of leased solar panels on four municipal buildings. The economics of such a project are being assembled for consideration. This proposal is in lieu of a previous plan for town-owned solar energy production at the town's closed landfill.

#### Co-Housing Article.

Tabled. Trudy Swenson will be looking into having a speaker come to a meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Noise Abatement

Bill Horrigan stated that noise from overly loud motor vehicles is a public nuisance and that some sort of abatement process might be initiated. The topic will be continued at a future meeting.

#### Town Pond Grant

The grant did not materialize after 4 annual grant submissions by Gary Steinman who has since proposed a \$5,000 inclusion to the town budget for the cost of aerating the town pond and making it usable for swimming.

#### Future Towns-Wants-To-Know Topics

Sarah Griswold sent two topics to Ron Faanes for consideration: (1) Sequestering carbon through improved agricultural practices and (2) No-till gardens for the home gardener.

#### Dear Crabby Q & A Column

Gary Steinman announced the Dear Crabby column on the town website can include more detail in the responses to problems. Jessyka Patterson will be drafting tips for the eBlasts.

### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Kim Cartwright brought two newspaper articles to the Commission's attention relating to (1) a plastic bag ordinance proposed for Newtown and (2) the possible introduction of cluster housing zoning in Southbury.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** - The next meeting is scheduled for June 13th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m..

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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*