



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 8, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Alternate Joni Weller, Alternate Timothy Flanagan

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson.

Public Present: Glenn van Moffaert, prospective appointee

Joni Weller and Timothy Flanagan were seated by Trudy Swenson and Cecelia Santillo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 11, 2013

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Joni Weller to approve the Minutes of the December 11th meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Connecticut Trails Day Weekend will take place on June 7th and 8th

Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Cathy Masi to participate in the CT Trails Day Weekend and register by February 3rd to be included in the publicity, motion carried unanimously.

Timothy Flanagan has been appointed to the Conservation Commission. Welcome!

Gary Steinman, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Trudy Swenson for her three years of service.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chairman's Report

The proposal for a new cell tower at 257 Perkins Road in Southbury was deemed by the Commission to have minor impact for Roxbury, however, Roxbury should continue to maintain intervener status should the application remain active.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Conservation Commission's activities and accomplishments were distributed.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other commission minutes and the only topic relayed was the application of Dr. Carlson to open a veterinary clinic on Baker Road. The Conservation Commission has no input.

OLD BUSINESS

Solarize Roxbury

The more participants in the solarization program, the lower the cost for all. Currently 113 sign-ups and 76 site evaluations have been completed. The lower conference room at Town Hall will be open on January 16th and 17th from 9 am to Noon and the solar contractor will be available to answer questions.

Parcel Index Update

Jimmy Hurlbut processes all the land documents and is/will be updating the Index. Gary Steinman reported the tax information is now on the GIS system.

Smart Growth

Commission members expressed significant interest in the projected cluster/condominium regulations designed to provide reasonably priced housing.

Easement Acceptance and Administration

Motion by Ron Faanes seconded by Timothy Flanagan to table the discussion on easement acceptance procedure, motion carried unanimously.

New UI Tree Pruning Protocol

Motion by Ron Faanes seconded by Timothy Flanagan to table the discussion of UI's tree trimming, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Session:

Motion by Ron Faanes seconded by Timothy Flanagan to enter Executive Session at 9:03 PM to discuss a parcel of interest, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Joni Weller seconded by Cathy Masi to come out of Executive Session at 9:13 PM, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Ron Faanes seconded by Timothy Flanagan to support the use of the Town's Land Acquisition Funds to purchase the parcel discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Comment

Ron Faanes suggested the Commission plan annual "A Town Wants to Know" events well in advance. Ron Faanes is working on creating a Conservation Commission "banner" to be used at events sponsored by the Commission.

Future Agenda Items

- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trail
- Strategic Planning
- Commission Mission

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson, Alternate Joni Weller, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: None.

Public Present: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – January 8, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the January 8th meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Memo from Kim Baron regarding the Quarterly Budget Report.

Memo from Kim Baron regarding the fiscal year 2014-15 budget request.

Request from Cynthia Newby of the Minor Memorial Library Board seeking the Conservation Commission's co-sponsorship of the upcoming program '2013 Environmental Scorecard' to be presented by the CT League of Environmental Voters.

Query from Susan Payne of the Roxbury Land Trust concerning whether the Conservation Commission accepts/holds easements on Roxbury properties and a request for a listing of conservation easements held by the Town.

Brochure from the CT Land Conservation Council regarding a program '2014 Land Conservation Conference' Saturday March 15th at Wesleyan.

Brochures from the CT Federation of Lakes calling for action and contributions.

The Habitat newsletter from the CACIWC.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chairman's Report

Glenn van Moffaert has been appointed to the Conservation Commission. Welcome!

Gary Steinman thanked Trudy Swenson for her three years of service as Chairman and noted that she recruited more volunteers in her three years than anyone else on the Commission.

The Conservation Commission has storage space in the town hall storage room where the video projector and camera are kept along with a 2-drawer filing cabinet where Commission materials will be archived.

Gary Steinman attended the meeting of the Southbury Energy Task Force on February 22nd to observe and comment on the SmartPower presentation by Erin O'Sullivan concerning the possibility of initiating a Solarize Southbury program.

Budget Report

The Conservation Commission has expended \$124.34 of its \$1,055 appropriation leaving a balance of \$930.66.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other commission minutes and the only topic of interest was Smart Growth.

AT & T Cell Tower

The proposal for a new cell tower at 257 Perkins Road in Southbury has been withdrawn, however, a site on Southbury Training School property is being considered. Attendee residents of Perkins and Garnet Roads requested their Roxbury neighbors aid in banning the proposed tower, after the fact of the application withdrawal.

Solarize Roxbury

The eligibility to participate in the program ended on February 4th. The Solarize Committee sponsored "A Town Wants To Know" Solar Program and held office hours at the town hall consisting of three-hour sessions on three occasions. As of February 2nd, Roxbury and Washington had 157 initial informational sign-ups resulting in 27 contracts for 220 kW solar capacity. Relative to the size of towns, Roxbury performed the best in obtaining commitments. The town has achieved Tier 4 pricing and Roxbury residents account for approximately three-quarters of the total.

BioAssessment

Trudy Swenson is making plans for a river macroinvertebrate sampling on September 20th and will be seeking volunteers.

Friends of the Lake

Jen Klug gave her report regarding the sensor buoy which has been in place for three years. This buoy measures significant parameters of the lake's waters. The CL & P management of lake debris is always a problem and Ron Faanes has suggested a time lapse camera be used to record the debris. FOTL event dates are Save the Lake Day Saturday May 31st and FOTL Dine Around Saturday July 26th.

OLD BUSINESS

Smart Growth

Commission members discussed points brought out at the meeting on Smart Growth held on January 30th at the town hall. Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Glenn van Moffaert, to draft a position statement for discussion at the next meeting of the Conservation Commission, motion carried unanimously.

Easement Acceptance and Administration

Motion by Glenn van Moffaert, seconded by Cathy Masi, to forward the memo drafted by Gary Steinman to Barbara Henry which recommends the Board of Selectmen empower the Conservation Commission to accept easements of behalf of the Town and to develop procedures and practices for the acceptance and management of these easements. Motion carried unanimously.

New UI Tree Pruning Protocol

Discussion tabled.

Commission Banner

Ron Faanes is developing designs for the banner which will be used at all Commission events. Suggestions for designs and slogans are welcome.

Strategic Planning

Discussion postponed

Town Wants To Know

The Commission members decided one "A Town Wants to Know" program per year would be appropriate.

Connecticut Trails Day Weekend

This event will take place on June 7th and 8th. Trudy Swenson will organize a preliminary trail hike to ensure the trail is hike-able and well-marked.

Executive Session:

Motion by Glenn van Moffaert, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to enter Executive Session at 9:09 PM to discuss a parcel of interest, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to exit Executive Session at 9:25 PM, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2014-15 Budget

Motion by Glenn van Moffaert, seconded by Cathy Masi, to have the Commission submit the proposed budget of \$1,200, motion carried unanimously.

Town Newsletter

Cecelia Santillo will write the "Dear Crabby" column with the topic question to be "What is Smart Growth?" Trudy Swenson will write about the Solarization Program and the CT Trails Day Weekend.

CT League of Conservation Voters 2013 Environmental Scorecard Program

Motion by Trudy Swenson, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to co-sponsor the 2013 Environmental Scorecard program slated for March 2nd at the Library. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Comment

None

Future Agenda Items

- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan; Review/revise Open Space Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- EXECUTIVE SESSION: Parcel of Interest
- Parcel Index

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 12, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: Alternate Joni Weller.

Public Present: Wendy Walker of the Roxbury Historical District Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 12, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Glenn van Moffaert to approve the Minutes of the February 12th meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Aquarion: Request for award nominations. The BOS will nominate the Conservation Commission for recognition.

Eva Abramson: Re fracking legislation

Meghan Ruta: DEEP transmitting 2013 CT DEEP RBV Program Report

World Energy via Barbara Henry: Solicitation to provide services to improve the energy efficiency of municipal buildings. Gary Steinman responded with recommendation to look into underlying subsidized SBEA program but not to consider buying World Energy's services.

Debra Morrell, CT via Barbara Henry: an RFP for second round of Microgrid program. Gary Steinman responded with a recommendation not to pursue the Microgrid program.

David Goldberg, CEFIA via Barbara Henry: Webinar announcement by Bryan Garcia.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Budget. The 2014-15 Commission Budget was submitted as directed by the Commission.

Easements. Regarding the Stockwell subdivision application, the Board of Selectmen choose to require use restrictions in the deeds of the two parcels being created in lieu of accepting a conservation easement. The Board of Selectmen decided not to implement the recommendation put forth by the Conservation Commission in accepting conservation easements.

2013 Environmental Scorecard. The Conservation Commission co-sponsored a successful, well attended public meeting at the Library on March 2nd. Gary Steinman reported on the positive results of the Solarize Roxbury endeavor. Post-meeting, Gary Steinman met with the speakers about future public information efforts for well testing and pesticides.

Solarize Roxbury. All Greenit has begun the installation process of solar systems at 20 properties in Roxbury which will reduce the carbon footprint substantially. Additional participants may sign up under discounted terms.

Clean Energy Task Force. The Conservation Commission has been asked by the Board of Selectmen to establish a committee comprised of commission members along with other volunteers to work toward the solarization of municipal buildings and to carry forth involving the community in future solar installations.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other commission minutes and the topics of interest to the Conservation Commission were SmartGrowth and the position of the Town regarding the acceptance of easements.

Parcel Index

No update

OLD BUSINESS

Smart Growth

The Commission discussed SmartGrowth as the focus of "A Town Wants to Know" program for this fall to educate townspeople about the pros and cons of this type of development. Knowledgeable and experienced speakers would be recruited.

New UI Tree Pruning Protocol

Discussion tabled to the next meeting.

Commission Banner

Trudy Swenson had three handsome Conservation Commission banners fabricated in three different designs and donated them to the Commission to be displayed at future events.

Strategic Planning

The Commission reviewed the mission statement and goals. Motion by Cathy Masi, seconded by Timothy Flanagan, to modify the mission statement to read "The Conservation Commission of the Town of Roxbury is dedicated to preserving our town's character and environment by the identification, protection, preservation and management of Roxbury's natural, environmental, sustainable, historic, recreational, cultural and aesthetic resources.", motion carried unanimously. Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Timothy Flanagan, to modify the goals statement to read "The preservation of Roxbury's open space, agricultural lands, rural agrarian character, scenic views and roads, unusual or important features and historic or aesthetic resources.", motion carried unanimously.

Town Wants To Know

The Commission members agreed the next "A Town Wants to Know" program would be in October 2014. One of the topics being considered is SmartGrowth.

Executive Session

Motion by Glenn van Moffaert, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to enter Executive Session at 9:09 PM to discuss a parcel of interest, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to exit Executive Session at 9:25 PM, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Session

Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to enter Executive Session at 7:36 PM to discuss a parcel of interest, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Timothy Flanagan, seconded by Glen van Moffaert, to exit Executive Session at 8:02 PM, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Glen van Moffaert, seconded by Timothy Flanagan, to collaborate with the Historic District Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Space Plan, review/revise

The Commission desires to clarify the definition of open space since many properties presently classified as open space are not protected in reality.

Clean Energy Task Force

Motion by Glen van Moffaert, seconded by Timothy Flanagan, to establish a Clean Energy Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.

Pesticides

Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson and Cathy Masi will meet with Margaret Minor regarding the pesticide issue. Future follow-up to the Freedom Lawn program will be planned.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

Future Agenda Items

- Bio assessment
- Friends of the Lake
- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9th, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 26, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM at 32 River Road by Chairman Pro Tem Gary Steinman
Present: Chairman Pro Tem Gary Steinman, Ron Faanes
Absent: Tim Flanagan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Gary Steinman stated he is acting as Chair Pro Tem for the purposes of establishing the CETF but it is his intention that Task Force should be chaired by another Conservation Commission Member or Alternate.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Establishment of Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman reviewed the programs and activities leading to the establishment of CETF and reported that Conservation Commission established CETF as a committee of the Commission pursuant to the request the Board of Selectmen. The Task Force will succeed the Solarize Roxbury Work Group.

Discussion concerning Task Force Goals and Objectives

Gary Steinman reported that the discussions leading to CETF's establishment revealed several goals: Municipal Solar, Fulfillment of Clean Energy Communities obligations, completion and informal continuation of Solarize Roxbury, and identification of opportunities to obtain energy-related grants and subsidies, as appropriate. Ron Faanes indicated that all promising energy technologies – fuel cells and geothermal systems, for example, as well as solar – should be considered in pursuing these goals. Note was taken of the fact that no broadly-based community discussion has been carried out in Roxbury that would inform the development of comprehensive goals for the CETF.

Three near term objectives were set:

- To convene a community discussion forum on the subject of energy. A facilitated conversation among attendees will be carried out to identify the goals and expectations of the community.
- To request guidance from the Board of Selectmen concerning its energy-related goals and expectations.
- To gather technical information concerning both the status of municipal energy use and plans and, more broadly, the technologies and programmatic opportunities that can be brought to bear.

Recruitment of Members of the Community

Note was taken of the Conservation Commissions intent that CETF should be composed of a few commissioners plus a larger number of community volunteers. Gary Steinman reported that First Selectman Barbara Henry will be including a call for volunteers in the next newsletter, on the town website and Facebook page, and by email blast. The planned community discussion forum also will be used to recruit volunteers.

Microgrid

Members took note of a previous recommendation not to pursue a State of Connecticut promoted opportunity to develop a microgrid in Roxbury. No interest was expressed in revisiting this matter.

World Energy/SBEA Programs

Members took note of a previous recommendation not to pursue a State of Connecticut and CL&P promoted opportunity for Roxbury to participate through World Energy – a commercial CL&P contractor -- in an SBEA (CEFIA) subsidized electrical energy efficiency program. Subsequently, Gary Steinman met with Tom Lyon of World Energy at World Energy's request and was briefed on a program under which agreed upon municipal electrical energy efficiency improvements are heavily subsidized with the balance of costs financed at 0%. Resulting debt is serviced at a cost less than the savings resulting from improvements. There are no fees beyond the costs of modifications and improvements, which costs are controlled and reasonable. Roxbury's participation in this program will remain an active option for future consideration if warranted by CETF's ultimate goals and objectives.

Municipal Solar

Members took note of Roxbury's long standing goal to solarize its municipal buildings. Installer DCS evaded its obligation to solarize one building in connection with a past Solarize program. Roxbury's current accumulation of Clean Energy Communities "points" are sufficient to obtain only about 1.6kW solar generating capacity. Also, there would be opposition to roof mounted solar on older municipal buildings in the Historic District. Gary Steinman reported his ongoing effort to arrange a meeting between First Selectman Barbara Henry and AllGreenit's (Solarize Roxbury installer) CVO Peter Stevenson to discuss alternatives for proceeding. One alternative to polarization of each building has been identified: the creation of a municipal solar farm at minimal or no up-front cost to Roxbury. This alternative remains to be explored.

Residential Solar

Gary Steinman reported that Solarize Roxbury is in its installation phase but that, while the formal enrollment period has expired, AllGreenit has agreed for the present to accept new Roxbury participants on a case-by-case basis. The established discounts and Federal Tax Credits continue to apply but the cap on CEFIA subsidies has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Gary has arranged for several Roxbury residents to be included on this basis and will remain available to facilitate the enrollment of others.

Elections

The election of a permanent chair is tabled.

MEMBER COMMENT

The possibility of scheduling future CETF meetings, when warranted, to occur immediately before Conservation Commission meetings was discussed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None added.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held at the call of the chair.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Steinman

Gary Steinman, Chair Pro Tem

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson, Alternate Timothy Flanagan, Alternate Joni Weller and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: None, Public Present: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 12, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the March 12th meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Aquarian: A letter was received by Trudy Swenson.

A telecom from Tom Filibrick of WCSU: Requesting information on the age of the dam in Roxbury.

A letter to Trudy Swenson: Thanking her for the donation of three banners depicting the mission of the Conservation Commission.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Budget

The 2013-14 budget funding has a balance of \$930.66.

Solarize Roxbury

An unauthorized entity solicited Roxbury's participation in a bulk purchase of state and federally funded subsidized solar pv systems in conjunction with other Northwest Connecticut towns. Upon further investigation, the program proved false.

Clean Energy Task Force

The Clean Energy Task Force held its first meeting on March 26 and developed its provisional goals and objectives.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other commission minutes and the topics of interest to the Conservation Commission were SmartGrowth in the Historic District relating to the creation of small homes on small lots and the inland wetlands preliminary application of the Shepaug Valley Bible Church. The Inland Wetlands Commission will notify the owners of a pond on Tophet Road of alternative methods to treat their pond instead of using herbicides.

Parcel Index

Trudy Swenson has spoken to Jimmy Hurlbut regarding his progress in the index updating.

OLD BUSINESS

Smart Growth

The Commission is developing a position regarding Smart Growth as it relates to the conservation and protection of Roxbury's town character and natural resources.

Strategic Planning

A draft of Program Review for 2014 was presented by Gary Steinman outlining items of interest to the Commission and Commission programs, both ongoing and future. Smart Growth will be added to the list.

Town Wants To Know

Ron Faanes reviewed the plan thus far for the next "A Town Wants to Know" program which will be about Smart Growth and will be scheduled for some time in October 2014 depending on availability of the Town Hall. Ron will be enlisting speakers well versed in this type of development and has already been in contact with the president of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and with Bob Fitch of Smart Growth in Litchfield.

Connecticut Trails Day

Trudy Swenson will do an announcement for the hike and hopes Commission members will join her.

Open Space Plan, review/revise.

The Commission members will study the current plan for discussion at the next meeting.

Pesticides

Motion by Cathy Masi, seconded by Trudy Swenson, to have Cecelia Santillo and Trudy Swenson write a timely newsletter which will be direct mailed to all residents warning of the dangers of herbicides and pesticides. Included in the letter will be a call for volunteers for the Clean Energy Task Force and a notice of the upcoming "A Town Wants to Know" program about Smart Growth. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Clean Energy Task Force

The first meeting was held on March 26 and was attended by Chairman Pro Tem Gary Steinman and member Ron Faanes. Goals established at the meeting include the solarization of municipal buildings, the completion of Solarize Roxbury and the pursuit of energy related grants and subsidies. Ron Faanes suggested all clean energy technologies be considered such as geo-thermal systems and fuel cells. The task force is seeking volunteers from the community.

Composting

Ron Faanes discussed the composting program just initiated in Bridgewater and will be looking at opportunities for Roxbury to follow suit.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

Future and Tabled Agenda Items

- Bio assessment (May agenda)
- Friends of the Lake (May agenda)
- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol
- Parcel of Interest (tabled)

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14^h, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MAY 14, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: Alternate Joni Weller

Public Present: F. Robert Petricone

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – April 9, 2014

A motion was made by Glenn van Moffaert and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the April 9th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- F. Robert Petricone spoke informally about the Community Land Trust in Litchfield.
- An email from Peter Filous of the Smart Growth Committee and the response from Gary Steinman.
- An email from Rivers Alliance of CT regarding a conference on May 30th to be held at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, topic is the roadside spraying of pesticides.
- An email from Meg Ruta of DEEP regarding the CT Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Conference to be held on July 25 at the Goodwin College in East Hartford.
- The Habitat newsletter

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

FOTL Meeting - Gary Steinman attended the Friends of the Lake meeting held on April 24th. Save the Lake Day is scheduled for May 31st. The public can join the "dine around" Friends of the Lake fund raiser, scheduled for July 26th at a cost of about \$20 per person. The FOTL cocktail party on August 14th is by invitation only.

Shepaug Watershed Association - Trudy Swenson and Gary Steinman met with Dan Sherr, Margaret Miner and Michael Jastremski of HVA on April 23rd to discuss the creation of the SWA under the umbrella of an existing 501c3 to carry on the work previously done by the River Health Committee of the Shepaug River Association.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other commission minutes and the topics of interest to the Conservation Commission were as follows: the aquatic pesticide application for the Roxbury Recreation Pond and the long-term approach to handling the situation at the pond and the review of the Smart Growth Conservation Subdivision Zoning Regulations and the suggestions made by town attorney McTaggart.

OLD BUSINESS

Smart Growth

Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Timothy Flanagan, to have Ron Faanes contact the Smart Growth Committee and request a copy of the current Smart Growth proposal with the idea of enhancing the committee's efforts from the perspective of the Conservation Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Planning

To be discussed a future meeting.

Open Space Plan, review/revise.

Glenn van Moffaert will study the current plan for discussion at the next meeting.

Town Wants To Know

Ron Faanes will be talking to people who have been involved in programs similar to Smart Growth and will be inviting them to Conservation Commission meetings to speak of their experiences.

Connecticut Trails Day

June 7th is CT Trails Day and Trudy Swenson has placed an announcement in the town newsletter for the hike along the Seth Warner Trail. A preliminary walk is planned for May 29th, with a rain date of June 5th, starting at the Hurlburt Park and Commission members will hopefully join her.

Pesticides

Cecelia Santillo and Trudy Swenson developed a timely newsletter which will be direct mailed to all residents warning of the dangers of herbicides and pesticides, which are especially dangerous to children. The Commission will possibly remanufacture the "Pesticide-Free" lawn signs for distribution as an antidote to the "danger – pesticides applied" lawn signs. Cathy Masi will obtain a cost estimate.

Bio-assessment

Trudy Swenson will reach out to Naugatuck Valley College for volunteers.

Composting

Timothy Flanagan met with Jen Ianucci of Resource Recovery, the force behind the Bridgewater Composting Pilot Program. All-American Waste, on a weekly basis, will pick up food scraps (no meats or oils) in special containers and deliver them to the New Milford Farms professional composting site which is located near the Nestle complex. Timothy brought along books from the Library about composting; his favorite was "Garbage Helps Our Gardens Grow" a book for children. Timothy also created an easel presentation demonstrating a 'compost stew' showing the layering technique for efficient composting. Timothy plans on speaking with David Blynn, the organic farmer.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Conversations on Energy

Gary Steinman said two meetings have been scheduled to invite the public to comment and make suggestions regarding energy issues. Those dates are Thursday May 22nd and Tuesday June 10th starting at 7:30 pm.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol
- Parcel of Interest (tabled)

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JUNE 11, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Alternate Joni Weller, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert seated for Trudy Swenson.

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson

Public Present: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 14, 2014

Acceptance of minutes was deferred to the next regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Two AT&T cell tower proposals for 237 Roxbury Road and 1071 Washington-Woodbury Road.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

The Connecticut Watershed Conservation Network Conference held on May 30th at the Mattatuck Museum was attended by Gary Steinman. The topic was roadside pesticide spraying and was sponsored by Rivers Alliance of CT, Housatonic Valley Association and the CT League of Conservation Voters. Spray chemicals used are diluted sufficiently and are deemed not to be of major environmental consequence.

CT Volunteer Water Quality Monitors Conference is to be held on July 25 at the Goodwin College in East Hartford. By request for proposed papers, Gary Steinman has submitted a 20 minute presentation and he should have a response from the conference organizers within the week.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station. CEFIA is offering a grant of up to \$5,000 for half the cost of a public charging station and Roxbury is in a priority zone as there exists a gap in the 15 mile distance between charging stations. Since the grant application is due June 13, Roxbury will most likely submit in the next grant opportunity period.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes submitted his review of other commission minutes and a discussion of solar in the Historic District ensued.

Community Conversations on Energy

The May 22nd event had no attendees but the June 10th meeting attracted approximately 20 participants whose focus was on three primary renewable energy sources, wood, solar and geo-thermal. Gary Steinman, Timothy Flanagan and Glenn van Moffaert were present and refreshments were supplied by Trudy Swenson.

Connecticut Trails Day

The hike of the Seth Warner Trail had two participants besides commission members Trudy Swenson, Cecelia Santillo, Ron Faanes and Gary Steinman. The trail proved to be in good condition. If the commission participates next year, Trudy Swenson suggested a shorter, more family-friendly trek.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning

Gary Steinman presented a draft of the Program Review detailing the scope of Commission activities inclusive of current, completed and proposed. Members were asked to study the draft and discuss recommendations at the next meeting.

Open Space Plan, review/revise.

Glenn van Moffaert has been studying the current plan and after a general discussion, he intends to do more in-depth analysis.

Town Wants To Know

Smart Growth will be the focus of the next public "A Town Wants to Know" event sponsored by the Conservation Commission. Commission members discussed selecting three panelists to present differing approaches to developing more diverse housing opportunities in Roxbury to be followed by a question and answer session. Ron Faanes will invite another person experienced in this field to attend the next regular meeting.

Bio-assessment

Trudy Swenson's report in absentia noted she will be recruiting volunteers in earnest in July and will be contacting Denise Fitch.

Composting

Timothy Flanagan talked on community composting and outlined three major questions - How to motivate residents to participate? How to collect the material? How to deliver it to the composting site? Tim has had preliminary discussions with several people and is formulating a possible plan.

NEW BUSINESS

AT&T Cell Tower Proposals

Two cell tower proposals are located in areas which are approximately a thousand feet off the road and seemed not to be in sensitive locations. The Commission made no recommendations.

MEMBER COMMENT

Pesticide-Free Lawn Signs

Cathy Masi reported the cost to reprint "pesticide free" lawn signs was about \$150 plus the costs of stakes. If the printer can provide the signs by the end of June, she will order them, otherwise, the expense would have to be considered in next year's budget.

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol
- Parcel of Interest (tabled)

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE SPECIAL MEETING JULY 7, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM at Roxbury Town Hall by Chairman Pro Tem Gary Steinman.
Present: Chairman Pro Tem Gary Steinman, Ron Faanes, Tim Flanagan, Sandra Cointreau

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Minutes of Special Meeting of 3/26/14 by Ron Faanes; second by Gary Steinman. Motion passes 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Gary Steinman stated as of 6/10/14 all Roxbury's Solarize systems except four ground mount systems are installed. Ground mount systems require zoning and other approvals. AllGreenit also decided to accomplish these installations, which are underway, in a group in order to accomplish required excavation more efficiently.

OLD BUSINESS

CETF Goals & Objectives

The Community Discussion Forum on Energy served both to affirm and to refine the several goals established by the Task Force at its last meeting. The goals are revised as follows:

- Installation of municipal solar pv and other clean energy technologies at municipal facilities
- Organization of bulk purchases of clean energy technologies for Roxbury's households

Both these goals are subject to the requirement that they be associated with reasonable economic payback periods. Also, the broadest range of available technologies should be considered in pursuing these goals subject to their being appropriate for use in context and of sufficient maturity to be reliable.

- Fulfillment of Clean Energy Communities obligations
- Completion and informal continuation of Solarize Roxbury
- Identification of opportunities to obtain energy-related grants and subsidies, as appropriate.

Recruitment of Members from Community

The group welcomes Sandra Cointreau as a new member.

Municipal Solar

Gary Steinman reviewed Roxbury's long standing goal to solarize its municipal buildings, the existence of engineering studies relating to the installation of solar pv panels on each municipal building and the alternative to create a municipal solar farm at minimal or no up-front cost to Roxbury. He will arrange a meeting between First Selectman Barbara Henry and AllGreenit's (Solarize Roxbury installer) CVO Peter Stevenson to discuss alternative approaches.

Residential Solar

Gary Steinman reported that approximately eight households have been referred to AllGreenit since the solarize program ended. These households will be offered the same discount as was received by solarize participants and they continue to be eligible for CEFIA subsidies and Federal income tax credits. The CEFIA subsidy formula remains the same but its cap has been reduced from 35% to 30%.

Election

Tim Flanagan was nominated by Ron Faanes to serve as chair of CETF and the nomination was seconded by Gary Steinman. No further nominations were made. Tim Flanagan was elected 4 in favor, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Outcome of Community Discussion Forum on Energy

Although two forums were scheduled, there were no attendees at the first owing to a problem with publicity. Some twenty people attended the second forum and the conversation went on for about two hours and most attendees remained afterward for refreshments. The conversation was dominated in the beginning by consideration of wood burning furnaces but broadened during its second half. It was productive in refining CETF's goals and objectives as noted above.

Status of Municipal Facilities and Related Information and Plans

Gary Steinman has requested access to billing and related records of Roxbury's municipal energy use since 2009. This information will be analyzed to choose a base year against which progress in meeting Clean Energy Community obligations will be measured. Tim Flanagan volunteered to assist Steinman in analyzing the records when they become available.

Technological and programmatic opportunities

Following a discussion of the maturity of various clean energy technologies and their appropriateness for use in Roxbury, Sandra Cointreau volunteered to research geothermal technologies.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None added

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held at the call of the chair

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Steinman

Gary Steinman, Chair Pro Tem

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JULY 9, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson and Alternate Joni Weller

Members Absent: Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Public Present: Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOG Community & Economic Development Director, Barbara Henry, First Selectman, James Conway, Selectman and Chairman of the Roxbury Zoning Commission

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meetings – May 14, 2014 and June 11, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of both the May 14th and June 11th meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Jocelyn Ayer spoke informally about various projects for Incentive Housing Developments in the Northwest corner of Connecticut both as rentals and as home purchases. Donation of the land and/or the existence of municipal/community water and/or sewer were key factors. Starting small in creating 'incentive developments' in rural areas has been the most common methodology.

The Conservation Commission budget for the fiscal year 2014-15 is \$1,055.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report:

The Water Quality Monitors Conference

Will be held at Goodwin College in East Hartford on Friday, July 26th. In response to a request from the event organizers for proposed papers, Gary Steinman has submitted a twenty minute presentation for consideration.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

CEFIA has a grant program for up to \$5,000 toward the cost of building a public charging station. Roxbury is in a priority zone and would qualify for the maximum subsidy. An application will be submitted in the next round of grants.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Held a Conversation Forum with approximately twenty people in attendance and with refreshments provided by Trudy Swenson. Three main points became manifest, the Task Force should (1) look more broadly at clean energy technologies, after a discussion on wood burning furnaces, (2) seek bulk purchasing opportunities such as solarization, and (3) municipal upgrades to town energy systems should be limited to initiatives that make economic sense with reasonable payback periods. The CETF met last Monday and welcomed Sandra Cointreau of 12 Church Street to the team membership. The results of the Community Conversation were incorporated into CETF's goals and objectives. Timothy Flanagan was elected as chair.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes compiled other commissions' minutes and the topics of interest to the Conservation Commission were as follows: the salvation of a vintage barn in the historic district, the plan for the maintenance of the private dam at 262 Painter Hill Road, and the Zoning Commission's input into the Smart Growth proposed plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning

Tabled for a future meeting

Open Space Plan, review/revise

Tabled

Town Wants To Know

The Conservation Commission invited Jocelyn Ayer to be one of the panelists at the "A Town Wants To Know" public meeting on Smart Growth which is planned for November 2nd.

Bio-assessment

Trudy Swenson reported activity is on-going

Pesticides

Cathy Masi had "Pesticide-Free" lawn signs reprinted and brought several dozen fastened to wooden stakes. The signs will be distributed to residents at various events and can also be obtained at Town Hall. The purpose of the signage is to heighten awareness of the damage pesticides can do to the environment and as an antidote to the "danger – pesticides applied" lawn signs.

Composting

Tabled

Executive Session

Motion by Cecelia Santillo, seconded by Ron Faanes to enter into Executive Session at 9:03 PM to discuss a parcel of interest. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Joni Weller, to exit Executive Session at 9:17 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Well Water Testing

Ron Faanes reported that Hydrotechnologies of New Milford is willing to do a repeat of last years' discounted water testing. The kits will be available at Hurlburt Park during the Tractor Parade

MEMBER COMMENT

None

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for August 13th, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Masi
Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 13, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Alternate Joni Weller, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson

Public Present:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting July 9, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Glen van Moffaert to approve the Minutes of the July 9th meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Copies of 'The Habitat', the newsletter produced by CACIWC were distributed to members.

A copy of the CT State of the Birds from the Audubon Society was circulated.

The Minutes of the Clean Energy Task Force meeting held on July 7th were included in the packet for members assembled by Gary Steinman.

A revised Handbook for CT Conservation Commissions was passed around and is available as a PDF.

Ron Faanes and Gary Steinman received an email from Cynthia Newby from the Library regarding the "A Town Wants To Know" seminar planned by the Conservation Commission for November.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

The Water Quality Monitors Conference was held at Goodwin College in East Hartford on July 26th at which Gary Steinman presented his paper.

Land Use Commission Chairs Meeting.

At the request of Barbara Henry, a special meeting was convened on July 22. The main topics were Land Use Regulation compliance and Smart Growth. The Land Use Pamphlet will need to be updated to include possible upcoming Planning and Zoning Regulation revisions before the pamphlet is re-issued to residents. There will be a Town informational meeting on Smart Growth in September which may affect the format and content of the planned "A Town Wants to Know" seminar set for November. The question was raised as to whether the Conservation Commission has its own set of regulations with the answer being no, however, other towns do have such regulations and the Conservation Commission most likely should consider creating same.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station. Roxbury most probably will not be installing a charging station this year. Possible locations considered for future construction were the transfer station and the public works building.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly compiles minutes from other town commissions and the topics selected to be of possible interest to the Conservation Commission were as follows: the salvation or demolition of a vintage barn in the historic district, the Smart Growth proposals, under the auspices of the Planning Commission, which appear to be on hold until the Zoning Commission responds to certain suggestions put forth and, lastly, the Zoning Commission's discussions regarding the proposed Shepaug Valley Bible Church and Smart Growth.

The Clean Energy Task Force is now comprised of four members: Timothy Flanagan as newly elected Chairman, Ron Faanes, Gary Steinman and the newest member Sandra Cointreau.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning

Members reviewed the plan outline as put forth by Gary Steinman for relevancy to current objectives and most items were deemed valid and important. At the next commission meeting, members will endeavor to prioritize goals.

Open Space Plan, review/revise.

Glen van Moffaert, after having assessed the Plan of Conservation and Development, thought the plan both informative and directional with respect to achieving certain goals including town character and open space acquisition. He further suggested a review of aspirations actually achieved over a defined time frame as a way to measure the 'success' rate. He stressed preservation versus conservation, one process keeps things the same and the other allows for change. He raised the question as to where the 35% open space goal originated. Gary Steinman explained the 35% target for open space was defined in the 1999 POCD, under the chairmanship of Judith Kelly. The POCD goes to the Selectmen. Gary Steinman suggested Glen van Moffaert compile a list of questions and recommended changes to be discussed at a CC future meeting.

Town Wants To Know

Ron Faanes has invited Dick Sears from Washington to speak of his town's experiences on creating housing opportunities at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Bio-assessment

Trudy Swenson, in absentia, reported activity is on-going.

Pesticides

The "Pesticide-Free" lawn signs seem to be a popular item as the box in the town hall foyer is almost empty. Cathy Masi will replenish the box with more signs. These signs were designed to heighten awareness of the danger of pesticides and hopefully property owners will display these lawn signs showing they practice earth-friendly management as opposed to posting "danger – pesticides applied" lawn signs.

Composting

Timothy Flanagan will have a report at the next meeting.

Executive Session

Motion by Cecelia Santillo, seconded by Glen van Moffaert to enter into Executive Session at 9:05 pm to discuss a parcel of interest. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Cathy Masi, seconded by Ron Faanes, to exit Executive Session at 9:17 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Well Water Testing

Ron Faanes reported that Hydro Technologies of New Milford will again do discounted water testing this year. The kits will be available at Hurlburt Park during the Tractor Parade. Notices need to go out on the town website and to local papers.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Greenway Trails
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14th, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Ron Faanes, Alternate Joni Weller, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: None

Public Present: None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Town Wants To Know

Motion by Cathy Masi, seconded by Cecelia Santillo to postpone the Conservation Commission's "A Town Wants to Know" seminar scheduled for November 2nd until next Spring. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Parcels of Interest

Motion by Cecelia Santillo, seconded by Glen van Moffaert, to enter into Executive Session at 7:39 pm to discuss parcels of interest. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Glen van Moffaert, seconded by Ron Faanes, to exit Executive Session at 8:23 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Motion by Glen van Moffaert, seconded by Trudy Swenson, to endorse the Town's acquisition of a parcel of interest as Open Space. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Motion by Glen van Moffaert, seconded by Trudy Swenson, to agree to serve as technical advisor for Cory McGuinn for his senior project of developing a trail from the Booth Free School to the Town Park on Apple Lane. The trail will be known as Joey's Trail. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Motion by Glen van Moffaert, seconded by Trudy Swenson, to proceed with development of a trail from the Booth Free School to the Town Park on Apple Lane. Motion carried unanimously.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 PM.

Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Alternate Tim Flanagan seated for Trudy Swenson, Alternate Joni Weller seated for Ron Faanes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tabled

CORRESPONDENCE

Cuddy & Feder LLP – AT&T

New Cingular Wireless Towers proposed for Town of Roxbury near the border with Town of Washington and other proposed tower in the Town of Washington near the border with Roxbury – sites on hold.

Vibrant Communities Initiative 2014

Grant for preservation planning grant NOT recommended at this time.

Megan Ruta, Monitoring and Assessment Program – Water Protection

Protocol change to collection step.

OLD BUSINESS

Tabled

- Strategic Planning, Review/revise Open Space Plan
- Town Wants to Know
- Smart Growth
- Composting
- Well Testing

Bio-assessment

Increase training, set up Friday night 7:30

Trails

Plans for trail are being developed. Glenn van Moffaert will meet with Shepaug High School Senior. Gary Steinman along with Barbara Henry will solicit property owners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Parcel of Interest

Barbara Henry has been advised of the Commission's recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Information Meeting – Smart Growth – September 30th

Committee Members asked to submit questions to Gary Steinman.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Strategic Planning
- Review/revise Open Space Plan
- Town Wants to Know
- Smart Growth
- Composting
- Well Testing
- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/Revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 8, 2014 Proposed

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecelia Santillo

Cecelia Santillo, Vice Chairman
(for Cathy Masi, Secretary)

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

Prior to Conservation Commission meeting:

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Alternate Tim Flanagan seated for Trudy Swenson, Alternate Joni Weller seated for Ron Faanes. James Conway, Selectman & Chairman of Roxbury Zoning; Barbara Henry, First Selectman

Dick Steers, (invited by Ron Faanes) served as Washington First Selectman for two years during the time of the towns Alternative Housing Program. Thirty seven affordable apartments were acquired. Mr. Steers answered questions and offered advice for Roxbury's own housing alternative:

- 1) Step 1 is a zoning change.
- 2) Form a Non Profit Corporation lead by individuals with "passion and heart".
- 3) Begin a Housing Fund.
- 4) Take cost of Land out of the equation.

All present were appreciative of his time and counseling.



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson and Alternate Joni Weller.

Members Absent: Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Public Present: Mrs. McGuinn and Cory McGuinn

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meetings August 13, 2014 and September 10, 2014 and Special Meeting September 3, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the August 13th, September 3rd and September 10th meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from the Minor Memorial Library Board of Directors declining to co-sponsor the "Smart Growth" topic as A Town Wants To Know program but offering to be considered for other future programs.

CT Land Conservation Council appeal to the Roxbury Conservation Commission to join as members. Gary Steinman expressed this Council is more appropriate for Land Trusts.

The Conservation Commission's CACIWC membership has been renewed at a cost of \$55.

From the Rivers Alliance of CT, a letter from Margaret Miner, calling for support of a petition to restore and maintain traditional water protections.

Bike Walk Connecticut is having its annual dinner and silent auction on November 24th at Central CT State University in New Britain. The goal is to improve CT as a place to walk and bike.

Ct Watershed Conservation Network Conference is to be held at the Leir Retreat Center in Ridgefield on Oct 29th. Topics will included water planning, streamflow classifications and how bug-collecting volunteers help the state protect waters.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thanks to Ron Faanes

For lining up several land use specialists who spoke at our Conservation Commission meetings and shared their experiences in developing affordable and alternative housing in nearby communities.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly compiles minutes from other town commissions and the topics selected to be of possible interest to the Conservation Commission were as follows: a vintage barn in the historic district was demolished but had there been a Blight Ordinance in place, preventative/stalling measures could have been implemented; the plans for the proposed Shepaug Valley Bible Church have no provisions for lighting in the parking lot.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Discussion tabled.

OLD BUSINESS

Trails

Cory McGuinn, as his Senior Project, will spearhead the creation of "Joey's Trail" in memory of Joey Awlasewicz who lost his life this summer. Gary Steinman, Mrs. Stuart and Cory McGuinn will meet to develop a plan of action starting with a potential route for the trail, possible easements required, construction methods and materials and a budget. Joey's family has been raising funds for the project. The initial concept is a trail connecting the Booth Free School, the Senior Center and the Library to Hurlburt Park.

Bio-assessment

Trudy Swenson led a discussion on the pros and cons of continuing the macro-invertebrate river sampling in light of the stepped-up State standards. Due to the lack of volunteers, the sampling has fallen on the shoulders of Trudy Swenson and Gary Steinman. Their efforts have been lauded as among the best in the state. Gary Steinman and Trudy Swenson recently visited all the potential sampling sites but only six had water.

Well Testing

Several test kits have been distributed resulting from the 'booth' set up by Ron Faanes to promote the discounted-fee water testing kits made available at the Town Tractor Parade at Hurlburt Park on October 5th. Ron Faanes would like to see a town e-blast letting residents know that the testing offer will continue with kits available at the Town Hall. Ron will take the samples to the lab by noon on October 14th. Trudy Swenson will compose a short memo to be e-blasted. The Commission is considering re-offering the discounted test kits in 2016.

Town Informational Meeting September 30th

There was standing room only at the town hall meeting. Several points/questions made during the meeting: Has a study or survey been done ascertaining resident's wishes for alternative housing? Why was more effort expended for condo regulations versus the 'village concept' and re-use of existing structures for housing? The Smart Growth Committee has been terminated by the Board of Selectmen. Trudy Swenson and Cecelia Santillo felt that housing for seniors and housing for young families required two different solutions.

Strategic Planning

Discussion tabled.

Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled.

Composting

Discussion tabled.

Executive Session

Motion by Trudy Swenson, seconded by Cecelia Santillo to enter into Executive Session at 9:11 pm to discuss a parcel of interest. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Cecelia Santillo, seconded by Joni Weller, to exit Executive Session at 9:21 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Budgeting

Ron Faanes suggested the Conservation Commission purchase a canopy for future out-door events.

MEMBER COMMENT

Cathy Masi suggested we have a future discussion on a blight ordinance as it falls within the Commission's objectives to protect the town character.

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol
- Town Wants To Know Smart Growth

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Alternate Timothy Flanagan (seated for Trudy Swenson) and Alternate Joni Weller.

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Public Present: Walter Pappas

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 8, 2014

A motion was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Timothy Flanagan to approve the Minutes of the October 8th meeting with one correction, the heading date should read 'October 8, 2014'. Motion approved by all members who were present at the October 8th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

A legal notice from the Planning Commission approving the installation of a bathroom and kitchen to the Pavilion at the Hurlburt Community Park.

Copies of the Habitat were distributed to members.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

OPEN SPACE. A parcel of land in southern Roxbury abutting the Shepaug River will become dedicated open space. The Conservation Commission was in favor of this proposition.

HOUSING TRUST. A private, not-for-profit housing trust may be established in Roxbury as an outgrowth of the Town Information Meeting on Smart Growth and the Selectmen's decision to disband the Smart Growth Committee and refer its mission to the Planning Commission. The Trust, if it becomes operational, would be independent of the town government.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly compiles minutes from other town commissions and the topics selected to be of interest to the Conservation Commission were as follows:

PLANNING: Peter Filous reported the Planning Commission will pursue the development of regulations for smaller homes on smaller lots as a more community acceptable avenue for housing options.

ZONING: Outdoor lighting restrictions and provisions for the proposed Shepaug Valley Bible Church will include exterior lighting shut-off times and fir tree screening.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan announced Walter Pappas has joined the task force. The task force did not meet in October however the prior meeting did produce lively discussions on alternative energy sources.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Cory McGuinn, as his Senior Project, developed an outline of the project creating a memorial trail for Joey Awlasewicz. The goal is to create a walking path connecting the Senior Center to the Hurlburt Community Park. Cory has two technical advisors, Mrs. Steinis and Gary Steinman. There are four possible routes for the trail and Corey will be contacting property owners to discuss easements. Gary Steinman noted that Brian Neff had previously developed a least-invasive wetlands crossing plan utilizing granite boulders from the local quarry upon which decking could be constructed.

Well Testing

Ron Faanes reported approximately 15 discounted-fee water testing kits were distributed in October, bringing the total to about 50 kits. Ron Faanes suggested the kits be offered every other year.

Bio-assessment

Gary Steinman cited the lack of volunteers for the macro-invertebrate river sampling and the increased protocol regimen required by the State as reasons for possibly cutting back on the testing. Options may be to reduce the number of testing dates and/or to conduct the testing using earlier, simpler practices. Gary Steinman suggested the discussion be tabled until Trudy Swenson, who has been primarily responsible for the program, can attend the meeting. The Roxbury Conservation Commission's efforts have been the backbone of the region's program. The sampling is a direct indicator of the health/purity of the river waters as certain macro-invertebrates can only live in clean water. The Shepaug has tested as very good to excellent.

Strategic Planning. Discussion tabled.

Open Space Plan, review/revise.

Gary Steinman will give Glenn van Moffaert a copy of the Land Use Pamphlet published earlier by the Conservation Commission (which is most likely outdated since regulations have been updated).

Composting.

Timothy Flanagan suggested inviting David Blynn, an organic farmer and businessman in the 'field' of composting, to a Conservation Commission meeting to educate members on composting. Gary Steinman suggested David Blynn come to the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Workshop on Ethics and Freedom of Information

Gary Steinman, Ron Faanes and Cathy Masi were in attendance at the meeting held on October 29th and conducted by Town Attorney Gail McTaggart. For the Conservation Commission, a quorum consists of three members. All meetings with three or more commission members must be noticed 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting; this includes sub-committee event planning meetings as well. Commission business must not be discussed outside of properly noticed meetings.

Annual Report

Gary Steinman presented a draft composed by Trudy Swenson of the Commission's accomplishments over the past fiscal year. The distribution of 'pesticide-free lawn signs' was added to the list.

MEMBER COMMENT

Cecelia Santillo and Cathy Masi suggested the Commission sponsor "A Town Wants To Know" seminar on a chemical-free Roxbury. Topics to potentially include would be protecting the aquifer, eliminating pesticides, composting and how to garden and maintain healthy lawns without chemicals.

Ron Faanes suggested the Commission eliminate "A Town Wants To Know Smart Growth" from future agendas.

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- New UI Tree Pruning Protocol
- Town Wants To Know Smart Growth

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2014, 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Alternate Glenn van Moffaert, Ron Faanes, Alternate Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Joni Weller.

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo.

Public Present: Reporter from Voices.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the November 12th meeting with two corrections, under Future Agenda Items, the topic should read 'Town Wants To Know' and the next meeting date should read 'December 10, 2014'. Motion approved by all members who were present at the November 12th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

An email from the Connecticut Forest and Park Association regarding the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails interactive map.

An email from the Bike Walk Connecticut soliciting membership.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

ANNUAL REPORT. The Annual Report of the Conservation Commission was submitted as approved at the last Commission meeting.

OPEN SPACE. The parcel of land at Falls Road and Minor Bridge Road which the Commission recommended be secured as open space is now public knowledge. Charles Jackson and John Hopkins have purchased the 12 acre parcel and divided it into two equal parcels. Mr. Hopkins, who owns the parcel nearest Chase Park, plans on maintaining the parcel as open space, possibly with a conservation easement. Mr. Jackson, who owns the more northern parcel plans on creating a conservation easement to protect the two acres along the Shepaug River as open space.

ROXBURY TODAY. The due date for submitting articles to Roxbury Today is December 19, 2014

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly compiles minutes from other town commissions and the topics selected to be of interest to the Conservation Commission were as follows:

INLAND WETLANDS: A revision plan for the septic system and leaching fields at the Hurlburt Park was discussed.

PLANNING: The Planning Commission will follow the Plan of Conservation and Development in making recommendations for alternative housing. A private initiative is being formed to explore a housing trust.

ZONING: Mr. Coburn related issues pertaining to RRR & Maintenance and potential problems in renewing their recycling permits with DEEP and permits for the hauling of waste due to current practices by RRR & Maintenance. Mr. Coburn has permission to consult with the town attorney per Chairman Conway.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan said the committee will meet in January.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

A meeting has been arranged for December 11th with property owners for the purpose of securing easements for the trail. Donations for land clearing, excavation, gravel and legal services have been obtained. Building materials and survey work are needed but fund raising is going on.

Composting.

Timothy Flanagan has spoken with David Blynn, a local organic farmer, who is willing to speak before the Commission. David Blynn will be invited to the January meeting.

Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled.

Strategic Planning. At the next Commission meeting, members will decide which programs in the strategic plan will be pursued, modified or eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

The slate of officers was presented to the Commission with no new nominations: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo and Secretary Cathy Masi. A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the slate of officers as presented. Motion approved by all members.

2015 Calendar

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Glenn van Moffaert to approve the schedule of meetings, substituting Thursday November 18th for the Wednesday November 11th date. Motion approved by all members.

MEMBER COMMENT.

A discussion about a future "A Town Wants To Know" symposium. Members agreed to bring suggestions to the next meeting.

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Town Wants To Know

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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