



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 13, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Timothy Flanagan and Russ Pribanic.

#### GUESTS

None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Ron Faanes to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence has been forwarded upon receipt.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

- Budget

Gary Steinman presented the budget and a discussion ensued as to what other expenditures might be incorporated such as some type of mailing to residents on subjects of composting, herbicides, pesticides, "Dear Crabby", educational presentations and the like.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Ron Faanes suggested having an expert on fuel cell technology speak to both the CETF and the Conservation Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting. Ron reported that Sandra Cointreau of CETF is to talk to a solar company who builds/install solar equipment and sells the energy generated to municipalities at a lower rate than the commercial electric vendor versus the municipality up-fronting the cost of construction and owning the power generated.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman presented a draft of a grant application to EPOC (Environmental Professionals' Organization of Connecticut) for \$4800 for the completion of the Joey's Trail Project. This amount is for materials to construct a 150 foot railed boardwalk. The cost of the project has been reduced due to shortening the trail. Gary noted most of the labor involved with clearing and excavating has been donated along with the necessary gravel and stone. The surveying work has been donated by Curtis Smith. Additionally, \$2300 has been raised from the community for a memorial and signage.

Recycling

Tabled

2016 Commission Meeting Calendar

The corrected finalized meeting schedule calendar was distributed.

Composting

Tabled

Invasive Plants

Ron Faanes approached Russ Dirienzo to see if the Inland Wetlands Commission would be interested in having the Conservation Commission prepare handouts suggesting alternatives to herbicides in invasive plant removal.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Composting (Timothy Flanagan)
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

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Conservation Commission

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

## **ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

### **CANCELLATION NOTICE**

The Conservation Commission's Regular Meeting scheduled for February 17, 2016 has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2016.



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 9, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson, Joni Weller, Russ Pribanic. Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo and Timothy Flanagan.

Guest: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2016 meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt.

NHCOG Forum for Land Use Commissions to be held at the NHCOG office at 59 Torrington Road in Goshen at 6:30 PM.

Land Conservation Conference at Wesleyan University in Middletown starting at 8 am on March 19<sup>th</sup>, cost \$65 for non-members.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman reported that Eliot Davis and Paul Szymanski appeared before the Planning Commission to provide a brief overview of their plans for the proposed distillery at the historic Roxbury Station. Gary took the opportunity to thank them on behalf of the Conservation Commission for their investment and efforts in preserving this significant property.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly review the minutes of other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights. Planning Commission members discussed Smart Growth and the potential polling of townspeople as to what they see the needs of the town to be. The Zoning Commission will be driving force for new Smart Growth proposals. Tree houses were talked about at length regarding allowable sizes, set-backs and safety concerns.

##### The Clean Energy Task For

Ron Faanes explained the expert on fuel cell technology scheduled to speak to both the CETF and the Conservation Commission has rescheduled his visit for the next regular commission meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman distributed aerial views of the proposed Joey's Trail which showed a few changes including a direct path to the Senior Center and to the existing path to the Booth School. Ron Faanes suggested the commissioners visit 'Anne's Place' in Danbury, a trail system designed to assist in the recovery for cancer patients. The Ann's Place walking trail is somewhat similar to what the Conservation Commission envisions for Joey's Trail which will offer easy usability for seniors. Trudy Swenson suggested combining CT Trails Day, the first Saturday in June, with the

first of three volunteer working days in the trail building process. Gary Steinman circulated a brochure about helical pier supports for an elevated boardwalk over wetlands.

Recycling

Tabled

Composting

Tabled

Invasive Plants

The topic will be placed on the future agenda items as an important issue to consider at a later date.

**NEW BUSINESS**

River Monitoring 2016

Trudy Swenson is an advocate of testing the health of Roxbury's rivers via the sampling of macro invertebrates but she stated the Commission lacks the manpower to do the sampling according to the stepped up protocol of the DEEP. The idea was discussed of having just a few commission members do the sampling to verify the health of the rivers thereby reducing the organizational preparatory work significantly.

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Composting (Timothy Flanagan)
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 13, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Members Absent: All present. Guests: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2016 meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt.

- Letter dated April 8, 2016 from Aquarion regarding award nomination opportunity.
- Postcard from Connecticut Land Conservation Lobbying request.
- Massive report from the Army Core of Engineers, none of which is relative to the Roxbury area.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman reported the scheduled speaker on fuel cell technology postponed his talk until the next Commission meeting.

Budget Report. The Conservation Commission has \$1031.81 of unexpended funding to be spent or lost by June 30, 2016. A discussion to use a portion of this funding to be allocated towards Joey's Trail will be finalized at the next meeting.

Trudy Swenson and Ron Faanes submitted a grant proposal to First Light for the rejuvenation of the Town Pond. Because the Town Pond is owned by the Roxbury Land Trust, the Trust will be notified of the proposal for their approval and involvement.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights. Permission from the Historic District is being sought by the Roxbury Market's W. Ferris to replace an inoperable glass exterior door with a traditional Dutch door with the intent of serving ice cream through the upper section of the door. The Inland Wetlands Commission reported on the aquatic pesticide applications of two ponds in northern Roxbury and requested pesticide alternatives educational letters be sent to the property owners. The Zoning Commission proposed text amendment to add residential apartment dwelling and related parking to Business Zone D (the business section by Mine Hill which has been recently expanded to include the Roxbury Station and the new distillery).

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan has begun the survey which calls for detailed reporting of goals, activities, etc. Timothy reported the number of municipal solar grids may be limited. The state legislature has to vote to mandate the public utility to allow virtual net metering which is controlled by Eversource.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman distributed aerial views of the proposed Joey's Trail drafted by Curtis Smith who has donated his services for the project. Trudy Swenson and Gary Steinman recently walked the proposed trail and suggested a few more changes to make the trail easier to navigate. The path should be wide enough to accommodate two people side by side and be appropriate for seniors to use. Approximately 90 feet of the trail will require 'bridging', a boardwalk laid over boulders in the wet areas as the least obtrusive method of crossing. An estimated amount for materials is \$2,000 to \$2,500 with the labor being donated. Brush clearing of the non-wetlands trail is expected to commence in early June by volunteers. Gary Steinman will ask Curtis Smith to develop a crossing proposal for the Inland Wetlands Commission. The town has a right of way from the "Loop" of the trail out to Wellers Bridge.

### River Monitoring 2016

Trudy Swenson is an advocate of testing the health of Roxbury's rivers via the sampling of macro invertebrates but she stated the Commission lacks the manpower to do the sampling according to the stepped up protocol of the DEEP. It was suggested just having a few commission members do the sampling to verify the health of the rivers would reduce the organizational preparatory work significantly. The recruitment and training of volunteers has become challenging. If the Commission elects to do macro invertebrate sampling on its own, the Commission would most likely sample three sites instead of the eight required by the DEEP and could choose those sites deemed important to the goals of the Commission. The health of the Shepaug is the primary consideration and the sites selected would probably be on the river itself. A follow up 'stream walk' may be planned to see if any new problem areas have cropped up since the prior stream walk. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

### Recycling

Timothy Flanagan brought samples of recycled, pulverized glass and how this glass is re-used for sand blasting and is desirable because it is non-toxic and does not require clean-up after use. There are other commercial uses as well.

### Composting

Tabled

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **MEMBER COMMENT**

None

## **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2016

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MAY 11, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Timothy Flanagan

#### GUESTS

None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2016 regular meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt.

Eversource Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding Low and Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit Program: The State has passed legislation allowing twelve additional municipalities to participate in Virtual Net Metering by allowing municipalities to generate and utilize electricity for municipal buildings. Electricity can be generated in one location and used in up to five different locations. Hours of kilowatts are banked and the accumulated hours are used to offset the usage in town buildings. A solar facility at Roxbury's landfill could be used to offset the power used by the town hall, town garage, firehouse, library and senior center.

"The Habitat" publication:

The Green Plan: the State's 20016-2020 Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Strategy. The DEEP is soliciting public comment until June 1<sup>st</sup> on the proposed Plan. Cecelia Santillo volunteered to draft a comment to be submitted to the DEEP on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman reported the scheduled speaker on fuel cell technology postponed his talk until the July Commission meeting.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights. Of interest to the Conservation Commission is the requirement that chemical lawn companies need a permit for the spraying of pesticides and herbicides. Chairman Dirienzo will write an article for the town newsletter educating the public regarding the use of pesticides and herbicides.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled



## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman distributed a newly modified aerial view of the proposed Joey's Trail drafted by Curtis Smith who has donated his services. Gary Steinman reported the company that does boring and decking over wetlands came in with an estimate of \$25,000 for a crossing of 90 feet. In actuality, the plan calls for an estimated 150 feet of wetlands crossing. There is the possibility of materials being donated and there is some funding available. A crew of volunteers mustered by Joey's family is prepared to do much of the heavy work. The trail is marked and the meadow portion of the trail is to be mowed shorter than the rest of the field as delineation.

CT Trails Day is the first Saturday in June and Trudy Swenson will publicize a call for volunteers to begin the path clearing. There is much bramble and brush and volunteers will be asked to bring work gloves, protective clothing and loppers. The plan is for volunteers to meet at 8:30 am on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Library back parking lot and the projected end time is 2:30 pm.

Future programs for children to develop an awareness in conservation at an early age can be intertwined with the trail.

### River Monitoring 2016

Macro invertebrate sampling in Roxbury's rivers, being such a labor intensive project, may be scheduled for every second year since the prior samplings have shown the rivers' waters to be healthy. Trudy Swenson pointed out that 'Stream Walking' did reveal some problematic areas of which some have been corrected by the property owners. Stream Walking may be a more valuable activity at this time in preserving the well-being of the rivers.

### Recycling

Tabled

### Composting

Tabled

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **MEMBER COMMENT**

None

## **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2016

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JUNE 8, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Cecelia Santillo and Russ Pribanic.

#### GUESTS:

Luanne Awlasewicz

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Timothy Flanagan to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2016 regular meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt.

Letter from First Light dated May 19, 2016 regarding the non-funding of the Commission's grant proposal. Re-submission of the proposal next year was discussed. Trudy Swenson stated the proposal is worthy and that the bulk of the work has been done.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman reported Conservation Commission property has been used without permission. Discussion detailed under 'Member Comment'

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights. The summary review brought up the subject of an earlier blight ordinance proposal which will be reviewed at a subsequent Commission meeting.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan has received the ZREC application (Low and Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit Program) from Barbara Henry. Legislation has been passed allowing twelve additional municipalities to participate in Virtual Net Metering which would allow municipalities to generate electricity in one location and utilize the net amount of electricity for municipal buildings in other locations. A solar energy-generating facility at Roxbury's landfill could be used to offset the power used by the town hall, town garage, firehouse, library and senior center.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson happily reported the CT Trails Day event of beginning work on Joey's Trail was a rousing success. At least 34 volunteers showed up with tools, gloves and a 'can do' attitude and accomplished an amazing amount of clearing away brush and bramble. In Trudy's words, "the Roxbury Conservation Commission rocks" with 100% of commission member participation. Friends and members of the Awlasewicz family made up most of the

remainder of the work party. Jan Steinman and Trudy Swenson provided morning refreshments and luncheon pizza for all the volunteers.

Gary Steinman and Trudy Swenson are working on a proposal to present to the Inland Wetlands Commission at their July meeting demonstrating alternative methods of building boardwalk crossings totaling approximately 150 feet in length. The Inland Wetlands Commission will select the method of construction judged to be the least intrusive. No other work on the trail can begin until a permit from the IW Commission is granted.

Luanne Awlasewicz reported that Bill Frederick, one of the brush clearing volunteers, is a carpenter who is well experienced in constructing boardwalk crossings. Luanne also stated that processed stone for the path will be donated. Gary Steinman is talking to a local company about donating materials.

Gary Steinman prepared an outline of the benefits of Joey's Trail along with a construction activity plan.

- Memorial to Joey Awlasewicz
- Supports Senior Center exercise walking program
- Off the road trail from Booth School to Library
- Off the road trail from Senior Center to Library
- General recreation for Roxbury residents similar to walking loop at Hurlburt Park
- Permits access to Booth students to wetlands in support of science classes
- Addresses POCD directive to create trail connection between town center and Greenbelt
  - Future path to Hurlburt Park
  - Connection to future center trail: Weller's Bridge and Church Street to Maple Bank Farm along the 80 foot right of way and along North Street.

#### River Monitoring 2016 Activities

Tabled

#### Recycling

Tabled

#### Composting

Tabled

#### Student-oriented activities

Tabled

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Fall Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes suggested a program centered on Alternative Power Sources and Methods of Alternative Power Storage including solar, geothermal, fuel cells and organic fuels. Residences with self-contained power generating and storage systems that are 'off the grid' would be an interesting addition to the program.

### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Conservation Commission equipment and Commission member's personal property have been borrowed without permission causing extra effort on the part of commission members to locate and retrieve the items when needed for commission events. It was decided to label items as property of the Roxbury Conservation Commission and to post a notice stating that permission must be obtained with instructions for same before taking equipment and that equipment is to be returned in the same condition and to the same location and notice given of the return.

### **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JULY 13, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Ron Faanes (Standing in for Kathy Massi Secretary), Trudy Swenson, Joni Weller and Russ Pribanic seated for Cathy Massi.

Members Absent: Cathy Massi and Tim Flanagan

Guest: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Russ Pribanic and seconded by Ron Faanes to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2016 regular meeting. Motion was approved by all members present at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

An article appearing in Voices Wednesday July 13 reported on Roxbury Wetlands Commissions interview on clean eart.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed the minutes of other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights. The ongoing saga of the issues on going at 39 Davenport was discussed.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Nothing to report

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

A brief update was presented by Trudy Swenson. She has procured the first supply of bridge material at discount from Home Depot. The material is a composite wood material with integral coloring the cost to date was \$568.04. The second purchase will be \$742.00. This should be sufficient for the surface of the bridges across the wet lands. The posts will be purchased as need. July 28<sup>th</sup> the site plan will be presented to the Wet Land Commissions to discuss final details and address their response of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Boardwalk over wetlands on hiking trail The group reviewed the map entitled Joey's Trail Site Plan dated 5/3/16. There is 154 feet of boardwalk proposed. The post holes will be dug by hand. The group had questions as to what material will be used, whether the area will be cleared by hand and the width of the trail. The Commission requested that Gary Steinman to come to the next meeting to answer these questions. The activity planned for June 4th should exclude wetland activities."

##### River Monitoring 2016 Activities

Tabled.

##### Recycling

Tabled.

### Composting

Tabled

### Student-oriented activities

Cecellia Santilo will be working on developing a student interaction program to have a continuous pool of help on RCC projects. She will contact the schools and local youth organization to solicit support.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Fall Town Wants To Know Program

It was initially planned to involve Fuel Cell technologies and the US Army to present a program on future generation of energy and storage on small scale for domestic use. Fuel Cell Technologies has been unavailable to sit won with us. Ron will pursue the US Army and how they can help develop the theme of the Town Wants to Know Program slated for late fall early spring.

### **MEMBER COMMENT**

No Follow

### **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug 10, 2016

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Faanes Acting 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 10, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Joni Weller and Russ Pribanic.

#### GUESTS

None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2016 regular meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt.

Municipal Energy Summit Thursday, September 22 8 AM to 1 PM at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell. Registration fee of \$65.00 will be handled by the Conservation Commission.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

None.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Town Commission minutes and distributed highlights. The summary review highlighted a neighbor's complaint of the Montessi property on Garnet Road.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan reported no updates.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson attended the Inland Wetlands Commission meeting at which the plans for Joey's Trail were approved. Trudy has received an estimate from the Home Depot of \$720 for the decking portion of the boardwalk crossings. Supporting posts for the boardwalks will most likely be composite material chosen for longevity. Railings will be of rope passing through drilled posts. The fund has approximately \$2400 for materials with the labor being donated. Kim Baron, Treasurer will disperse monies appropriately as authorized by Barbara Henry. The building code will define required spans and necessary supports. Laurie Lenahan is still willing to donate mulch and processed stone will also be donated.

##### River Monitoring 2016 Activities

Tabled.

##### Recycling

Tabled.

#### Composting

Gary Steinman said that at some point, the Conservation Commission hopes to develop a booklet for home composting.

#### Student-oriented activities

Cecelia Santillo reported that Christine Harding and Lil Murphy have an email list of potential student volunteers. Cecelia developed a message for the students telling of the varied activities and achievements of the Conservation Commission along with an invitation to join in for something of interest to them.

#### Control of Conservation Commission Equipment

Conservation Commission equipment and Commission member's personal property have been borrowed without permission causing extra effort on the part of commission members to locate and retrieve the items when needed for commission events. It was decided to label items as property of the Roxbury Conservation Commission and to post a notice stating that permission must be obtained with instructions for same before taking equipment and that equipment is to be returned in the same condition and to the same location and notice given of the return. More specifics to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### Fall Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes suggested a program centered on Alternative Power Sources and Methods of Alternative Power Storage including solar, geothermal, fuel cells and organic fuels. A date in November will be targeted. It was suggested that, as part of the program, the Conservation Commission should focus on its role and encourage attendees to participate in Commission activities and consider becoming members.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Gary Steinman brought up the subject of future election of officers urging thought to a change in the slate.

#### **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2016

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 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.*





# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chair Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Joni Weller seated for Ron Faanes and Russ Pribanic seated for Trudy Swenson.

Members Absent: Ron Faanes, Trudy Swenson and Timothy Flanagan.

#### GUESTS

None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Russ Pribanic to approve the Minutes of the August 10, 2016 regular meeting. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence forwarded upon receipt but none since the last meeting.

Copies of The Habitat were distributed to members.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman attached an article on the progress of the conversion of the Railroad Station into a distillery. Ron Faanes and Timothy Flanagan have been signed on for four more years as commission members. The Annual Report of the Roxbury Conservation Commission prepared by Gary Steinman was approved by members.

##### Commission Summaries

None this month.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson, in an email to commission members, stated she is working on publicity for the upcoming Joey's Trail work date of October 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8:30 AM and meeting in the library's rear parking lot. She will send out press releases this week to Voices, Litchfield County Times, the Roxbury Town website, and to Barbara Henry for Facebook and the town-wide email-newsletter for publication a week or two before the October 22 trail work day. She will post to the Shepaug Valley High School community service opportunity webpage today.

##### Student-oriented activities

Cecelia Santillo has been in contact with Christine Harding who would like the specifics of project dates, tasks for volunteers, tools needed and the like. Cecelia plans on sitting in on a session for project planning to firsthand understand student thinking and to then be better able to offer project structure encouraging student participation.

### Control of Conservation Commission Equipment

No updates.

### Fall Town Wants To Know Program

Gary Steinman outlined the upcoming "Town Wants To Know" public seminar to be held at the Library sometime in November. The focus will be on Full Cell Technology and how it can be utilized residentially. The **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)**, the developer of the internet and other futuristic projects, is working on fuel cell development (aka energy storage). Other segments of the program will be the successful 'Solarization of Roxbury' and the proposed solar project to supply municipal buildings with electricity and which would be built over the closed town landfill. Discussion of future town seminars produced the idea of "Beyond Hazardous Waste Day", what do you do with the stuff they won't take. Plus, educating the public about recycling.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes will be securing a tractor and a trailer for a commission parade entry. Commission banners will be on board with a call for volunteers for Joey's Trail. The Commission's canopy will be set up at the park to house a display of the Commission's good works.

### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Gary Steinman discussed the year-end election of officers and how a change of slate infuses committees with new energy and ideas.

### **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2016

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 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.*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

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Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2016

### MINUTES

No minutes for the October 12, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Roxbury Conservation Commission were filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted,  
*James A. Hurlbut*  
James A. Hurlbut  
Asst. Town Clerk



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Joni Weller seated for Trudy Swenson and Russ Pribanic seated for Timothy Flanagan.

Members Absent: Vice Chair Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson and Timothy Flanagan.

Guest: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October meeting will be forthcoming.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Most of the email correspondence was forwarded upon receipt.

An additional email from the City of Waterbury notifying the Shepaug River Association of the need to temporarily divert water, due to the drought, that normally would go to the Shepaug for maintenance compliance. Diversion is expected to last only a month.

An email from Russ Dirienzo informing the Conservation Commission of the availability of the annual EPOC grant opportunity and suggesting the commission apply for support of our trail system.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Jocelyn Ayer made a presentation at the Planning Commission meeting for the Northwest Council of Governments to aid in developing a regional plan of Conservation and Development. Gary Steinman and Cathy Masi were present at this meeting at the invitation of the Planning Commission to Conservation Commission members.

EPOC (Environmental Grant Program) grant applications must be submitted by March 15, 2017.

Spot checks of the Shepaug River revealed extremely low water levels, sometimes rendering two thirds of the river bed dry and some of the Shepaug's tributaries totally dry. Had the Commission elected to pursue macro invertebrate sampling this this fall, the project would most likely have been cancelled due to poor water levels. The effect of this drought along with Waterbury's diversion of water may have a profound effect on river life.

##### Commission Summaries

###### ▪ Historic District

With concern over the potential deterioration of historic homes within the historic district, a plan was discussed for providing financial aid to those homeowners who have not the resources to perform necessary repairs for the preservation of their historic homes. This confidential assistance would most likely entail a lien, with interest, which would be repaid upon the sale of the property. The HDC authorized Wendy Walker to discuss three options with Barbara Henry.

###### ▪ Planning Commission

At the Planning Commission's October meeting, Jocelyn Ayer presented a proposal for the 21 towns in the Northwest Council of Governments to develop a regional plan of Conservation and Development. COG would like

to establish an interactive website to be used as a tool by the towns. The intent of the plan is to foster collaboration among the towns that have similar goals and needs. Jocelyn Ayer conducted an instantaneous online survey allowing attendees at the meeting to prioritize goals and submit their answers using a hand-held recording device which showed the responses immediately on the presentation screen. A map showing conservation and development areas was displayed. There were some inaccuracies noted Gary Steinman.

#### The Clean Energy Task Force

Ron Faanes will be contacting Green Bank, the State agency which sponsored the solarization program.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Joey's Trail

The October 22<sup>nd</sup> workday was a success with an excellent turnout of volunteers who covered a good portion of the trail with the mulch donated by the Lenehan's. Hats off to Trudy Swenson for doing a terrific organizational job. Gary Steinman met with John Blaney, the Roxbury building official, regarding the needed bridge. Mr. Blaney said bridges were strictly out of his jurisdiction and suggested Gary contact Brian Neff.

##### Composting

David Blynn may be able to assist in developing a composting program this winter.

##### Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo has established contact with the student coordinator. It was suggested students could utilize FaceBook to inform other students about community service options associated with the Conservation Commission.

##### Control of Commission Property

Commission equipment needs to be clearly labeled so borrowers know where to return equipment. A plan of notification and permission for borrowers needs to be established so the equipment can be available for Commission functions when needed as opposed to members scrambling to locate equipment.

##### Fall Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes has emailed a request for information to Fairfield University and he will be contacting UConn.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **MEMBER COMMENT**

Gary Steinman reminded members of the upcoming year-end Commission elections to take place next month.

#### **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2016

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2016

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chair Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Ron Faanes and Joni Weller (seated for Cathy Masi who arrived at 7:30).

Members Absent: Russ Pribanic and Timothy Flanagan.

#### GUESTS

None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 12 and November 9 meetings were unanimously approved by those present at the meetings.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence was forwarded upon receipt.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman visited the Railroad station site a few weeks ago to find that the entire station had been demolished and put into a large dumpster. Construction of a replica has begun. This is disappointing because the Commission understood the new owner's plan was to disassemble the station and rebuild it using as much original material as possible.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed the Commission summaries with emphasis on the invasive plant removal project on Grassy Hill. The removal is being done by hand with appropriate safeguards to protect wetlands and preserve native species. The Commission discussed encouraging residents to accomplish invasive plant removal using goats where doing so would be practical.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson wants to mount a small work party to spread the rest of the mulch before winter really sets in and to refine the placement of the boardwalks.

##### Composting

Tabled.

##### Student-oriented Activities

The Commission discussed ways to interest high school students in doing conservation-related senior projects: 1) encourage students to attend a few commission meetings to learn about the range of things we do and to

stimulate project idea generation; 2) meet with involved faculty at the high school and introduce them to what we do; 3) offer to provide a commission member as community advisor/mentor for any student that does his or her project with us. What we don't want to do is to accomplish any project for a student or to encourage a project that would overwhelm a student.

#### Control of Commission Property

Gary Steinman reported that the video projector and canopy have been labeled. A suggestion was made to put the chair's phone number on the label to facilitate contact. That can be done once a new chair has been elected.

#### Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes continues to contact organizations and individuals with expertise in alternative and advanced energy systems.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Elections

Since potential officers were absent, election of the chair and vice chair was postponed until the January meeting. Election of the Secretary proceeded as scheduled:

Motion by Trudy Swenson to nominate Cathy Masi for re-election as secretary, seconded by Cecelia Santillo.

Motion by Ron Faanes to close nominations, seconded by Trudy Swenson. Vote 5 to 0 in favor of closing nominations. Vote 5 to 0 in favor of re-electing Cathy Masi as secretary.

#### **MEMBER COMMENT:**

None

#### **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise
- Strategic Planning (Gary Steinman, Trudy Swenson)

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2017.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. followed by a brief and informal holiday social.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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