



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 11, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

Guest: Walter Pappas of the Clean Energy Task Force and Jane Pappas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 14 meeting was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

- A budgetary question concerning future capital acquisitions by the Commission was received. No requests beyond the normal commission budget were anticipated.
- An invitation to join the Conservation Council was received. No action was taken.
- A brochure from the Audubon Society on the losses and possible extinction of certain bird species.
- The Habitat newsletter was distributed.
- CT Dept. of Public Health states it is time to test for radon.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Gary Steinman has made the recommendation to the Planning Commission that the Conservation Commission draft the section of the POCD concerning conservation. Gary reported the recommendation was well received.

Commission Summaries

None reported this month.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Jane Pappas, guest, is a salesman in Vermont for heat pump equipment and stated heat pump technology has evolved into a much more effective product and can displace up to 80% of heating.

Ron Faanes has contacted Edgerton Mechanics of Monroe requesting a representative visit our municipal buildings regarding the feasibility of switching to electric heat pumps/ductless heat pumps, the concept being using the eventual electricity generated by solar arrays at the landfill and moving away from fossil fuels.

Gary Steinman relayed that Barbara Henry would like to see as much as possible of the landfill utilized for the solar panels with the idea that future increases of municipal energy consumption could be handled. Any excess electricity could be sold back to the power company in the meantime.

Gary Steinman suggested that if it were possible to merge meters of municipal building located on the same parcel of land then it may be possible to include more buildings at differing locations under the 'five municipal buildings rule'. With fewer meters there may be fewer electricity delivery charges.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson will oversee revitalization of activity in the spring and has begun detailing her plan of action.

Jane Pappas recommended the Commission contact AmeriCorps for additional help in finishing the trail and Trudy Swenson will explore the idea.

Composting

An email from Timothy Flanagan reporting that Tim is working with David Blyn of Riverbank Farm on creating a brochure on composting.

Student-oriented Activities

Tabled

Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes is waiting to hear back from the Yale Office of Sustainable Energy.

Ron Faanes suggested a future topic for a Town Wants to Know series would be 'Living with Predators', most notably coyotes.

Elections

Motion by Cathy Masi to change the structure of the Commission by having two co-chairmen and eliminating the position of vice chair, seconded by Joni Weller. All were in favor.

Motion by Trudy Swenson to nominate Ron Faanes and Gary Steinman as co-chairmen, seconded by Cathy Masi.

Motion by Cathy Masi to close nominations, seconded by Trudy Swenson. All in favor of closing nominations.

Vote: all in favor of the slate.

NEW BUSINESS

Tractor Parade

Russ Pribanic suggested for next year's parade that a child's old-fashioned pedal tractor be procured and he would convert it to a gas-engine powered vehicle. Members, be on the lookout for an old toy tractor!

MEMBER COMMENT:

Ron Faanes brought to the attention of the Commission members the progress Newtown has made with five municipal solar arrays in place and functioning.

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 February 8, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 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 FEBRUARY 8, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Members Absent: Cecelia Santillo, Russ Pribanic and Joni Weller.

Guest: Kathy Quinn, Chair of the Newtown Energy Task Force.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 11 meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Trudy Swenson. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting with the following correction: the idea of heat pump technology as applied to town buildings emanated from Walter Pappas not Ron Faanes.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

- Energize CT Training Seminar on the benefits of Strategic Energy Management to be held on February 28th in North Haven.
- The 2017 CT Land Conservation Conference will be on Saturday March 18 at Wesleyan University in Middleton.
- Aquarion Water is once again sponsoring the CT Environmental Champion Awards which recognizes outstanding efforts by individuals, companies and non-profits in protecting the environment.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Nothing of import to note.

Commission Summaries

None of specific interest for the Conservation Commission.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Kathy Quinn, chair of the Newtown Energy Task Force, informally discussed the progress Newtown has made in installing solar arrays in five locations. The goal of the Newtown Commission is to derive at least 20% of energy consumed by the Town buildings from renewable sources. Leasing solar equipment saves some on the cost per kilowatt hour, eliminates upfront outlays for equipment purchase and utilizes clean energy. Kathy believes owning the solar equipment is cheaper for the long run. The plan involves a 25 year leasing contract at a fixed rate of 0.082 \$/KWh with interconnection fees estimated at \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. Gary Steinman expressed concern over interconnection fees and Timothy Flanagan will investigate. Kathy Quinn reported her Commission has developed a plan to utilize four acres at the closed Newtown landfill for solar arrays but Net Zero Energy Credits need to be authorized by the State. Legislation has been introduced by Representative Hampton of the 16th District to lift the virtual net metering cap. The Roxbury plan is similar with approximately 2 acres to be covered. The Newtown Energy Task Force Commission meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Municipal Center on Primrose Lane and our members are welcome to join the meeting. Kathy distributed handouts and said Fred Hurley of the NETF could answer specific questions. She will email a slide presentation of the NETF's activities.

Gary Steinman reported a vendor performed a short walk-through some of our municipal buildings with regard to heat pumps. Gary suggested heat pump technology might best be utilized in the future for some of the larger spaces only, such as the Town Hall Community Room, the Library, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson relayed the next step would be the removal of the previously-marked trees blocking the designated trail and suggested an impromptu, weather permitting, tree cutting session. She suggested a location along the trail for the donated granite bench. Gary Steinman has researched structural specifications for boardwalks and has found nothing for composite boardwalks. With the vertical supports of composite material it was deemed appropriate for a wooden boardwalk as it would have the opportunity to dry. Once the structural plan has been adopted materials can be procured using the budgeted funds. Gary will ask Russ Dirienzo to walk the trail for his opinion on what is necessary to cross the wetland.

Composting

Timothy Flanagan is working with David Blyn of Riverbank Farm in developing a plan for resident composting.

Student-oriented Activities

Tabled.

Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes is still waiting to hear back from the Yale Office of Sustainable Energy and DEEP.

Tractor Parade

A motion by Cathy Masi, seconded by Trudy Swenson, to allow Ron Faanes to expend up to \$100 of the Commission's budget to procure an old-fashioned children's pedal tractor for next year's parade.

NEW BUSINESS

First Light

Trudy Swenson said the grant application previously written for the rejuvenation of the town pond is in place and just needs simple updating to be ready for submission. The grant application covers dredging the pond and installing an aeration fountain.

EPOCH Grant

The application is due by the end of March and the funding is usually for trails. Connection from Joey's Trail along Weller's Bridge and Apple Lane to the Hurlburt Park is being considered for the application.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- Conversation on Trees will be stricken from the list of agenda items and can be reinstated if necessary.
- 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 March 8, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 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 MARCH 8, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Joni Weller (A) seated for Cecelia Santillo), Russ Pribanic (A) seated for Trudy Swenson.

Members Absent: Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson and Timothy Flanagan (A).

GUESTS

11 Boy Scouts, Scout Masters, families of the local Scout Troop. The Scouts in attendance were Mason Gsell, Henry Roush, Grant Ketchum, Tim Murphy, Paul Jones, Connor Richardson, Nick Brown, Hugo Villos, Dominic Nesaw, Rowan McKay and John Galligan. (name spelling of Scouts is approximate).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Joni Weller. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Members of the local Boy Scout Troop were present as part of a Community Service Project by attending and participating in a community commission meeting.

Correspondence:

- Oppose budget cuts to CT State Parks.
- Clean Energy Communities Municipal Energy Winter Warmer Conference March 17, 2017.
- State to eliminate the council on environmental quality.
- Conquering the Energy Code for Architects and Engineers March 11, 2017.
- Action Alert: Submit testimony to protect your public lands by Monday, February 27, 2017.
- Review of January 2017 draft of the Water Conservation Plan for Waterbury, CT.
- Condition of the State's waters.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Commission Summaries

The Zoning Commission distributed maps of a proposed Village District in Zone A which could potentially reduce lot size, required frontage, a reduced feasibility circle, shared driveways and a maximum house size. Cathy Masi suggested the number of bedrooms be possible reduced thereby limiting the general number of occupants and limiting the size of septic systems.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Ron Faanes explained to the Scouts about the projects of the Clean Energy Task Force which currently centers on creating a solar farm on the closed landfill which would supply electrical power to five municipal buildings using the net metering accounting system. Since purchasing the solar equipment is cheaper in the long run than leasing, the acquisition cost becomes the biggest obstacle. Gary Steinman said if a grant such as a STEAP for \$500,000 could be obtained, the financial outlay would be reduced to \$150,000. With electrical costs of \$50,000 annually it would make fiscal sense. Gary further explained to the Scouts about the successful solarization program which aided 20 homes in Roxbury in installing solar arrays.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Ron Faanes told the scouts about the memorial trail for Joey being constructed by the Conservation Commission and described its location behind the library and the Senior Center.

Composting

Ron Faanes talked about developing a residential plan for composting.

Student-oriented Activities

Tabled

Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes talked to the Scouts about the various educational programs the Commission has produced in conjunction with the Library including pesticide/herbicide free lawns, invasive plants, water quality, energy-efficient smaller homes, solarization and clean energy.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide

Gary Steinman gave the Scouts an overview of how the Conservation Commission studies and makes recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the Plan of Conservation and Development which is state mandated to be updated and revised every 10 years. He also explained the purpose of the Land Use Guide which has been mailed to every Roxbury household. The point of the Guide is to educate and promote awareness as to which land use activities are allowed and/or which require permits.

Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes and Russ Pribanic explained to the Scouts that they plan to convert a child-sized metal tractor, donated by Wayne of the Roxbury Market, to a gasoline-powered vehicle and ride it in next year's Tractor Parade. It will pull a small cart behind. Two Scouts, Tim Murphy and Dominic Nesaw enthusiastically volunteered to work on the tractor conversion.

NEW BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Chair to attend other Commission meetings for collaboration

Ron Faanes will attend the other Commission's meetings and ask what could the Conservation Commission do that would be helpful to their objectives.

Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Ron Faanes asked for a motion to add the budget to agenda. Motion by Gary Steinman, seconded by Cathy Masi, approved by all to add the Budget for FY 2017-2018 to the agenda.

MEMBER COMMENT:

Ron Faanes heartily thanked the Scouts for coming to the meeting.

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- 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 April 12, 2017.

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 APRIL 12, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

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

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 8 meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cathy Masi. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Ron Faanes distributed copies of the "the Habitat"

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Ron Faanes said the meeting with the Boy Scouts was successful in that the Scouts took part in the discussion and expressed interest in participating in future projects of the Commission. Ron Faanes suggested Commissioners think about community projects that could be presented to both Scouts and High School seniors which could fulfil their obligatory missions. Ron explained it would be wise to have a number of projects ready ahead of time for consideration by the students and for these projects to be repetitively offered.

Commission Summaries

Gary Steinman gave an overview of one of the roles of the Historic Commission which is to govern the outside appearance of historic homes in Zone A which is the ¼ mile area surrounding the center of town. A proposed ordinance has been put forth to delay the demolition of an historic home by 90 days if it is outside the historic district but is listed in a specific book of historic homes.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman reported a letter of engagement with the legal firm of Murtha Cullina LLP has been agreed upon regarding a proposed solar farm on the closed landfill. The CETF met with Attorney Paul Michaud and with Chris Whitman of Solomon Energy. An application for a STEAP grant, to be written by Chris Whitman, will need to be submitted by April 17th to secure funding for the landfill solar installation. Gary Steinman explained that leasing part of the landfill town-owned property for another municipality's or a school district's solar construction is possible.

Walter Papas did have a technical assessor evaluate the possibility of converting municipal structures to heat pump systems but the results have not been finalized.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Trudy Swenson showed photos of a Norwalk boardwalk spanning a wetland area as an illustration of what the boardwalk in Joey's Trail might look like. Gary Steinman said he thought we wouldn't need as many pylons. Since heavy equipment cannot be brought into the wetland area, Gary suggested a two-man power auger be utilized to dig for the pylon installation otherwise, it would have to be old-fashioned posthole diggers. A stone bench is available to be moved to a spot along the trail and a Tranquility Garden of indigenous shade-loving plants is to be

created. Ron Faanes suggested this might be an excellent project for the Scouts since it is a concise community project. It was decided the next phase would be the physical development of the boardwalk plan and Brian Neff will be consulted. Trudy Swenson plans to organize a 'chain-saw brigade' to remove trees in the path and then to organize a work party, as was done last Fall, to complete the mulching. Lorrie Lenahan has graciously agreed to donate as much mulch as is needed.

Composting

Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo will contact Christine Harding to set up a time regarding senior project presentations.

Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes will talk with the library director about future collaboration of presentations on topics of interest to the Conservation Commission. Cathy Masi suggested it might be a good idea to re-do a program on Freedom Lawn and the very real dangers of pesticides and herbicides and have the program be more centered on the video that was run at the prior Freedom Lawn event. Perhaps a speaker before and after the showing of the film with a Q and A session at the end.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide

Tabled

Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes said a children's metal tractor has been donated by Wayne Ferris, owner of the Roxbury Market, and the town has sent a letter of thanks to Wayne for his generous gift. Russ Pribanic has obtained an engine which he is transforming to power the little tractor. Cecelia Santillo will provide a small old-fashioned red metal wagon as the pull-behind.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting of Commission Chairmen

Ron Faanes reported that Barbara Henry will be scheduling a meeting of Commission chairmen to foster cooperation and collaboration between commissions.

Budget

Ron Faanes received the 2015-2016 budget report which showed the Conservation Commission has a balance of \$941.41 remaining of the allocated \$1,100.

MEMBER COMMENT

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- 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 10, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Masi

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MAY 10, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson and Russ Pribanic (A).

Members Absent: Joni Weller (A) and Timothy Flanagan (A).

GUESTS

Teresa Roxburgh, Director of the Minor Memorial Library

Walter Pappas, member of the CETF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 12 meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cecelia Santillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Ron Faanes noted the email sent to all by Trudy Swenson regarding uranium and arsenic present in well water and the need for testing.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Ron Faanes invited Teresa Roxburgh to the meeting in order to share ideas about future educational events.

Teresa Roxburgh stated the programs needed to be educational and not political and that she would be happy to work with the Conservation Commission.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes made mention that the Zoning Commission is discussing Smart Growth and he suggested to members that Chairman Jim Conway be invited to a meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss "A Town Wants to Know" future program on alternative housing. All thought that would be beneficial. The program focus will be to present various ways other towns have handled alternative housing with the idea of educating Roxbury residents as to the possibilities.

Gary Steinman reported the Zoning Commission has had the town attorney draft an ordinance allowing homes that been built legally but which are now pre-existing non-conforming residences, a way of expanding their footprint by 25 feet in such a manner as to not increase their non-conformity. The ordinance needs to be re-drafted as it is unclear and contradictory.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman reported that the application for a STEAP grant to secure funding for the landfill solar application, which was to have been written by Chris Whitman of Solomon Energy, was not submitted in time to meet the April 17th deadline.

Walter Pappas reported the conversion/addition of heat pumps to town buildings only made sense economically if the town had a solar array to supply the electricity.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman said since he could not find stress factors for synthetic wood that perhaps the boardwalk bridge joists could be wood with just the pylons and walk boards to be of synthetic wood.

Trudy Swenson discussed various plans to remove approximately 25 to 30 trees along the trail. Trudy thought it best that just a few 'experts' fell the trees and then a subsequent work party remove the logs and brush to a location where it could be removed. The work crew should bring plastic snow sleds to drag the logs out. Lorrie Lenahan has graciously agreed to donate as much mulch as is needed and to have the felled wood removed.

Composting

Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo will contact Christine Harding for the exact time on May 22nd for the senior project presentations.

Town Wants To Know Program

A program on Freedom Lawn and the very real dangers of pesticides and herbicides and their effects on ground water is being planned for early spring. Cecelia Santillo will bring the cd/ video that was run at the prior Freedom Lawn event to the next Conservation Commission meeting for review by the members with the idea of editing the content for a shorter, more dramatic presentation. A dry run at the Library to test for visibility and sound will be performed well in advance.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide

Tabled.

Tractor Parade

Russ Pribanic has dismantled the little tractor and when done it will be gas powered (not pedal powered)! Cecelia Santillo will provide a small old-fashioned red metal wagon as the pull-behind.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEMBER COMMENT

None

FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS

- 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 12, 2017.

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

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JUNE 14, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Cecelia Santillo, Joni Weller (A) and Russ Pribanic (A).

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson and Timothy Flanagan (A).

GUESTS

Elaine Urban and Bill Horrigan, both of the Zoning Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 10 meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cecelia Santillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email forwarded to members.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Budget Report from Kim Baron. The Commission will use the remainder of the budgeted funds toward the completion of Joey's Trail.

Commission Summaries

No topics relevant to the Conservation Commission.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman reported that Michaud has not yet delivered an RPF for a solar array at the landfill.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman distributed a photo of what the boardwalk most likely will resemble and a materials list for the proposed 100-foot boardwalk. Between approximately \$900 of the Conservation Commission's remaining budget and the \$2300 in the Joey's Trail fund, there should be sufficient monies to construct the boardwalk.

Composting

Tabled.

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo and Cathy Masi attended a senior project presentation on the importance of trails. Cecelia gave the senior Advisor five possible senior project ideas relating to conservation.

Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes invited Bill Horrigan and Elaine Urban to discuss ways the Land Use Commissions could work together in developing a program of educating the public about the various possibilities to create alternative and smaller housing opportunities including adaptive re-use of existing structures and cluster housing. The trend of the discussions indicated that whichever way the town proceeds, the projects should be small in scope. Elaine Urban

has consistently been an advocate of conducting a survey to determine what residents want before any major changes are made and the Commission was in sync. Cecelia Santillo commented on the devastating effects unstable housing situations have on the well-being of families. Gary Steinman made reference to Bob Petricone of the Litchfield County Housing Authority regarding affordable housing. Under the Litchfield County Land Trust the land is leased thereby eliminating high land acquisition costs. A price formula for selling units in the future keeps the housing affordable for the next buyer. The key to the success of the program is having the land donated or leased. The donation of land could have tax benefits to the donor. All of these topics could be incorporated into A Town Wants to Know program.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Commission had planned to view the video "A Chemical Reaction", a revelatory documentary about the serious dangers of pesticides and herbicides, however the audio portion was damaged. If a workable copy of the video can be secured, it may be incorporated into a future safe ground and safe groundwater educational program.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide
Tabled

Strategic Planning

Tractor Parade

Russ Pribanic is still working on the little tractor which he is converting to a gasoline powered engine.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MEMBER COMMENT

None

FUTURE PROJECTS

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 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 12, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Guest: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 14 meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cecelia Santillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Ron Faanes distributed copies of The Habitat,

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Budget Report from Kim Baron shows the Conservation Commission has new funding totaling \$1,100.

DEEP Breakfast Summary. Both Ron Faanes and Gary Steinman attended the breakfast. Dr. Klee, Commissioner of the DEEP, was the speaker. The bad news is the budget for the DEEP has been cut. Priorities of the DEEP include a waste-to-energy program. A surprising fact is one third of all waste is food. "Shared Solar" is the concept whereby people with unsuitable situations for solar band together to share solar on workable locations. The proposed solar array for the transfer station has the potential for more solar generation than the Roxbury municipality needs. A second meeting was conducted by the NWHCOG and was attended by Gary Steinman and Peter Filous. Village funding priority area target for funding not identified.

The Board of Selectmen met on July 5th. Gary Steinman composed a summary of the history of alternative housing opportunities for seniors and young families and the Conservation Commission's efforts to provide an educational forum for residents on what has and has not worked in other communities. The intent is to "inform not persuade" noted Gary.

Commission Summaries

No topics relevant to the Conservation Commission.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman will confer with Barbara Henry as to why Michaud has not yet delivered an RPF for a solar array at the landfill. The April deadline to apply for a STEAP grant was missed due to lack of the RPF.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

The Commission agreed that the 100-foot boardwalk span should be given the go-ahead to Bill Fredericks to commence construction now that Trudy Swenson has amassed the necessary materials which are currently stored in the town garage. Between approximately \$900 of the Conservation Commission's 2016-17 budget and the \$2300 in the Joey's Trail fund, approximately \$2600 was expended for materials. It should be noted that the Home Depot trimmed \$500 off the cost. About \$600 is remaining in the Joey's Trail fund. The shorter section of the boardwalk, originally planned to be 50 feet in length will be held off at the present. Ron Faanes will draft a rough

outline of what this second boardwalk will entail along with related tasks and will give it to Trudy Swenson for refining. The idea is to then present the draft to the Boy Scouts as a possible Community Project for the Eagle Scouts. This segment of the trail would also encompass bringing in and setting up a granite bench (which has been found by Barbara Henry) and planting the Tranquility Garden.

Composting - Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo will become involved with interaction with the counselors for the next school term.

Town Wants To Know Program

It was decided to invite Glen Cava and a member of the Westport-based Land Tech firm to the next meeting of the commission to brainstorm in developing a program of educating the public about the various possibilities for alternative and smaller housing opportunities for both senior citizens and younger residents. Studies about what residents think the town needs in terms of smaller, more efficient housing have not been done, and in that light, the Commission is working on developing a survey to see how Roxburians regard this topic and what they would like to see happen, if anything. Ways of getting the survey out were a flyer included in the monthly Senior Center/Recreation Newsletter and a link in the eblasts sent out by Barbara Henry. Trudy Swenson suggest Survey Monkey which analyzes results. Whatever form the questionnaire takes it needs to be brief and small in scope. Gary Steinman will revitalize his previous sources including Bob Petricone of the Litchfield County Housing Authority. This Town Wants to Know program is targeted for November and its purpose it to educate about the possibilities.

Commission members were charged to email five suggested questions for the survey and be prepared to discuss these at the next meeting in order to develop the best possible survey.

Ron Faanes discovered that the video "A Chemical Reaction", a documentary about the serious dangers of pesticides and herbicides, only works with Windows 7 so the Commission will review the cd at a later date. The plan is to incorporate the viewing into a Town Wants to Know program for early spring of 2018 along with a segment on soil testing. For this segment, Ron Faanes has contacted Dennis Schain of the DEEP.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide - Tabled

Strategic Planning - Tabled

Tractor Parade

Russ Pribanic is ready to assemble the child's pedal tractor, donated by Wayne Ferris of the Roxbury Market, into a gasoline powered dynamo capable of towing 2 little red wagons which Cecelia Santillo says she can procure.

NEW BUSINESS - None

MEMBER COMMENT - None

FUTURE PROJECT

NEXT MEETING DATE

The regular meeting of August 9th will be cancelled and the next meeting will be a Special Meeting and will be scheduled for August 16, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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
AUGUST 9, 2017
CANCELLATION NOTICE**

The Regular Meeting of the Roxbury Conservation Commission scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2017 has been cancelled.

The new Regular Meeting has been scheduled for August 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Faanes
Ronald Faanes

Dated: July 13, 2017



TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 11, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson and Russ Pribanic (A). Members Absent: Timothy Flanagan (A).

GUESTS

Glen Cava, land development lawyer, was invited by the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 12th meeting was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Trudy Swenson. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Emails distributed as received.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Ron Faanes submitted a possible Community Project for the Eagle Scouts, a Joey's Trail work proposal, to the leader of the Boy Scouts but has not yet received a reply.

In memory of Joni Weller who has passed away, a moment of silence was held in her honor.

An email to Ron Faanes from Barbara Henry reiterated that the Conservation Commission is an advisory commission to the Board of Selectmen and should wait on direction from the Planning Commission regarding the update of the POCD. An article in Voices about the upcoming update of the Woodbury POCD is attached. The article describes Woodbury's effort in obtaining public input.

Commission Summaries

The Historic District Commission requested the owner of property on The Green remove the Belgium block he had installed as driveway lining as it was deemed not appropriate. The owner stated that the guidelines had been unclear.

The Planning Commission Chair Peter Filous reported that it has already been determined what the town wants regarding the Smart Growth topic.

The Zoning Commission will not be involved in POCD until it is sent to Zoning by Planning to develop the appropriate zoning regulations.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman reported the final deadline for applying for a STEAP grant has been missed due to lack of the RFP from Paul Michaud. This was to have been for constructing a solar array at the closed landfill.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman had a talk with Bill Fredericks who is now ready to begin construction on the 100-foot section of boardwalk. He is reported to have said that what he needs now is a bunch of kids to dig the holes for the pilings.

Trudy Swenson said we have all the supplies at the ready. Ron Faanes said between \$600 and \$700 should be remaining in the Joey's Trail fund.

Composting

Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo has talked with Wendy Youngblood about potential senior projects involving conservation and she has hopes that some students may attend our next Conservation Commission meeting.

Town Wants To Know Program

Ron Faanes has contacted Dennis Schain of the DEEP about a speaker on soil for the "Town Wants to Know" program proposed for the Spring.

Glen Cava, as an expert in land use law, talked about attracting young families to Roxbury. He suggested building smaller homes on smaller lots around a central green which would be a gathering place for families and play space for children. By keeping the houses and lots smaller, costs could be kept down. As a member of the Board of Education, Glen said the regional AgSTEM Academy could be a source of attraction to families with students. Glen said that a survey would and should involve the community. Questions he suggested for a survey included "Would you live in town if you were to down-size?", "Would you live in a 1500-1800 square foot home?", "Would you be willing to live in a non-age restricted clustered community?", "What do you see for yourself in the future?". However, the proposed survey and educational seminar dealing with alternative housing have been cancelled.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide, Strategic Planning

Tabled

Tractor Parade

Russ Pribanic is ready with the child's pedal tractor and Cecelia Santillo says she will procure two little red wagons to be towed. A banner with a message to be displayed for the tractor/wagons will be developed. Candy or the like will be procured to toss to kids.

The canopy will be set up at the town park and posters of what the commission does, i.e. Joey's Trail, River Health Monitoring, Solarizing the landfill, etc. will be displayed along with a poster soliciting for volunteers and a new member.

Since well water testing kits were dispersed last year, the testing will be skipped this year.

NEW BUSINESS - None

MEMBER COMMENT - None

FUTURE PROJECTS

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 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 13, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Cecelia Santillo and Russ Pribanic (A). Members Absent: Trudy Swenson and Timothy Flanagan (A).

Guests: Sarah Griswold, Program Coordinator for the Library

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 16th meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cecelia Santillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting with the correction of Greg Cava's name in several spots.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Emails distributed as received.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Ron Faanes had submitted a possible Community Project for the Eagle Scouts, a Joey's Trail work proposal, and has received replies back from both scout directors, Dave Perkins and Brad Jones, affirming the projects described as follows were appropriate for the scouts.

1. Constructing a 50-foot board walkway over one section of wetlands.
2. Brush removal. Significant clearing work has been done. There is more to complete, along with spreading donated mulch over the dry woodlands portion of the trail.
3. Design and planting a tranquility garden with native species.
4. A stone bench has been donated. It needs to be moved into place and installed in the tranquility garden. Please note, no machinery can enter the wetlands so an element of creativity or teamwork will be required. We are targeting completion late fall.

Commission Summaries

Nothing applicable to the Conservation Commission.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Ron Faanes reported the RFP developed by Paul Michaud has been submitted to 80 solar contractors. The proposal describes the project as 19 acres when the actual solar field is conceived to be from 2 to 4 acres. Drone photos of the landfill will be retaken for clarity and the proposed solar arrays will be photo-shopped into the pictures.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Detailed under the Chair's Report.

Composting

Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo has continued to talk with Wendy Youngblood about potential senior projects involving conservation and she has hopes that some students may attend our next Conservation Commission meeting. Nothing has happened yet but Cecelia will keep at it.

Town Wants To Know Program

Sarah Griswold offered her services to the Commission in developing programs for the town. With the cooperative efforts of the Library and the Program Director it was deemed possible to conduct four Town Wants to Know Programs in 2018. The productive discussion led to a tentative schedule of the following topics:

1. January. Geology and the effects of glacier activity in Roxbury – Sarah Griswold will contact Tim Abbot of HVA as a possible speaker.
2. March. Drinking water recharge areas and how to protect water resources. Dangers of herbicides and pesticides.
3. September. Sustainable energy.
4. November. Energy conservation through design.

Cecelia Santillo suggested a walking/talking tour of Mine Hill in conjunction with a Town seminar.

Cathy Masi suggested developing a Conservation Commission program for children and their parents to promote awareness at an early age.

Ron Faanes will speak to Matt Flurry of the CT Science Center regarding a children’s program. The Commission agreed that Sunday afternoons would be the best time for the Town Wants to Know programs.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide, Strategic Planning
Tabled

Tractor Parade

Russ Pribanic shared a photo of the retro-fitted, gasoline-powered child’s pedal tractor he hand outfitted. Cecelia Santillo has a little red wagon to be towed behind the tractor. The banners Trudy Swenson had created for the Conservation Commission will be attached to poles to be parade march-able and then will hang on the canopy during the post-parade gathering at Hurlburt Park. Candy or the like will be procured to toss to kids. Posters of Commission projects, i.e. Joey’s Trail, River Health Monitoring, Solarizing the landfill, Residential Solarization, Chemical Free Lawns, etc. will be displayed along with a poster soliciting for volunteers and a new members. Gary Steinman suggested “Friends of the Conservation Commission” and commission members will talk to visitors at the tent about becoming a ‘friend’ which will enable them to receive emails and notices of activities and allow ‘friends’ to participate in activities of interest, to encourage attendance at Conservation Commission meetings and to have a ‘voice’ in sharing their opinions.

NEW BUSINESS

CFAP Happenings

Sept 14 - 17	6:30 pm on the 14th to 3 pm on the 17th	2017 Coverts Project Seminar	Great Mountain Forest, Falls Village
Sept 16	10 am to 11:30 am	Gardener's Roundtable	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 16	1 pm to 3 pm	Fishing in Pine Acres Pond	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 20	3 pm 4 pm	Goodwin Book Club	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 22	3 pm to 4:30 pm	The Art of the Sit Spot	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 23	9 am to 11:30 am	CFPA Ramble: Introduction to Shinrin-Yoku (Forest Bathing)	Highlawn Forest at CFPA, Rockfall
Sept 23	10 am to 11:30 am	Outdoor Adventure 101: Learning the Map and Compass	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 23	1 pm to 2:45 pm	CFPA Ramble: Bush Hill Farm Hike	Bush Hill Farm, Manchester

Sept 23	1 pm to 2 pm	Hiking the Blue-Blazed Trails with Jim Giana	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 23	4 pm to 5:30 pm	Plant Essential Oils: Nature's Extracts	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 24	12 pm to 3 pm	Long Distance Guided Hike	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton
Sept 29	10 am to 11:30 am	Goodwin Two-for-One: Mosquitoes & Weather Basics	Goodwin Conservation Center, Hampton

NHCOG Plan of Conservation and Development

Gary Steinman emailed a copy of the draft Plan of Conservation and Development drafted for the Northwest Hills of Connecticut by the regional Council on Governments and requested conservation commission members review it and Gary will convey any comments to the Planning Commission on Thursday evening.

MEMBER COMMENT

N/A

FUTURE PROJECTS

Sustainable CT Communities Pilot Program. Sarah Griswold said the CT Community Foundation will fund environmental programs but grants need to be submitted by October 3rd.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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 OCTOBER 11, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi and Cecelia Santillo.

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson, Russ Pribanic (A) and Timothy Flanagan (A).

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 13th meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cecelia Santillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Emails distributed as received.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Ron Faanes said Tim Abbott of HVA will be at the Commission meeting in November.

No news about RFP for the proposed solar installation at the landfill.

The budget for the Conservation Commission from Kim will be the same at \$1,110. After Ron has been reimbursed for expenses for the Tractor Parade, the remaining funds will be about a \$1,000.

The Annual Report of the Commission's accomplishments and future goals will be prepared by Gary Steinman.

Commission Summaries

One topic was the subdivision of one parcel into two parcels and the required creation of 15% open space or monetary substitution. This prompted Gary Steinman to discuss an issue of what happens to this open space. A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Gary Steinman to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman as follows:

- 1) That all future open space donations created as a result of subdivision be marked with permanent concrete monuments by the land donor.
- 2) That all corners of the open space be given GPS coordinates by the land donor.
- 3) That the Land Use Officer physically inspect all future donations of open space annually, or as deemed appropriate, for the visibility of said monuments.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Ron Faanes reported that there are no updates concerning the proposed solar project over the landfill.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

The granite bench has been delivered and may already be moved to the location designated by Trudy Swenson. Ron Faanes reported the Boy Scouts are willing to complete the final phase of the trail. Gary Steinman said the area over which the 50-foot boardwalk is to be built is a filled wetland and he suggested that perhaps making the boardwalk only 20-feet long may be enough. Gary will speak with Russ Dirienzo

Composting

Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo did speak with Wendy Youngblood who said that the students have chosen their senior projects and the projects are all 'indoor'. Cecelia said she would continue her efforts to promote conservation for future projects.

Town Wants To Know Program

Sarah Griswold has created an outline of speakers for the January Program and Ron Faanes would like to include Russ Dirienzo. Ron Faanes talked about an article in Voices regarding Dan Esty, former commissioner of the DEEP, who will speak about how conserving land impacts a town financially by reducing land available for development. Ron thought Sarah Griswold could speak with Dan Esty about how conservation could affect Roxbury.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide, Strategic Planning

Tabled

Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes reported the Conservation Commission's efforts at the tractor parade a success with a very special thanks to Russ Pribanic who retro-fitted a child's pedal tractor to gasoline power and also to Wayne Ferris for his donation of the tractor.

Gary Steinman's suggestion of "Friends of the Conservation Commission" yielded six sign-ups to be Friends who will be emailed agendas, minutes, special notices and invitations to join in at meetings and special projects. Friends will be involved in sharing their ideas of where they think the Commission should be involved. If the Friends can't physically attend meetings or events, suggestions by email are very welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Faanes attended a meeting of the Pomperaug Coalition and queried how Roxbury can benefit the Pomperaug River and be a candidate for the Mark Taylor Award.

MEMBER COMMENT

Cathy Masi came upon an email dating back to 2013 from Hugh Rawson having to do with a proposed ordinance that would give property owners recourse if their rights to enjoy their property were being infringed upon by neighbors or their property values were being negatively impacted by the actions of neighbors. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 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 NOVEMBER 8, 2017

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Cecelia Santillo and Russ Pribanic (A).

Members Absent: Timothy Flanagan (A).

Guests: Tim Abbott of HVA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 11th meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Cecelia Santillo. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Emails distributed as received.

FRIENDS OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Gary Steinman said the email addresses of the Friends of the CC should be added to list of people who receive minutes and that Friends are invited to suggest topics they think are of importance.

Cecelia Santillo talked to someone who is interested in the Conservation Commission but can't attend regular meetings yet would like to become a Friend. Ceil Santillo asked her what she thought was important and she replied that she missed the Town Pond and would like to see it revitalized and become a place for residents to enjoy once more. The Conservation Commission had applied in 2015 for a First Light grant to aerate the pond using solar energy however the request met with no success.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of Ribbon and Certificate to Tractor Driver and Caboose Engineer

Ron Faanes had photos printed of Russ Pribanic's grandchildren driving the tractor and riding in the 'caboose' to give to Russ and to Wayne Ferris of the Roxbury Market in gratitude for their efforts and contributions for the Tractor Parade.

The Annual Report of the Commission's accomplishments and future goals will be prepared by Gary Steinman.

Commission Summaries

Chairman Conway of the Zoning Commission noted that a Dollar Store was recently approved in Morris and Gary Steinman said that the commercially zoned land in Roxbury has already been utilized.

OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

One section of the boardwalk is nearing completion but the other section of the path needing a boardwalk is very wet and needs the boardwalk built before the trail can be used. Trees still need to be cut and cleared away. A trail inauguration is planned for the Spring.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled

Composting

Tabled

Student-oriented Activities

Nothing new to report but Ceil Santillo will continue her efforts to promote conservation for future projects.

Town Wants To Know Program

Tim Abbott of the HVA and Regional Conservational Director gave an overview of topics he could cover in a presentation he would make for "A Town Wants to Know" educational program to be scheduled for the latter part of January 2018. Geology will be the topic and Tim will define local characteristics and how these characteristics relate to the future of Roxbury. Geology affects land use, development, types of flora, wildlife corridors, water quality and much more. Tim talked about various formats for data presentation including slides and internet models. Trudy Swenson suggested some of topics mentioned by Tim could be incorporated into future programs. Ron Faanes asked if Tim had examples of disasters where communities ignored the geology traits of a specific area. The commission members were enthusiastic about Tim as the main presenter for the January program and thought his discourse would be highly interesting. Ron Faanes will contact Sarah Griswold to pin down the date.

Ron Faanes had clipped an article from Voices titled "Toxicologist Ginsburg "Is Our Environment Having a Bad Day" and thought that this expert might be good for the Freedom Lawn program.

Conservation Plan, Open Space Plan, Land Use Guide, Strategic Planning

Gary Steinman relayed the Roxbury POCD has no category for economic development and that topic will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MEMBER COMMENT

Ron Faanes was asked by Teresa Roxburgh, Director of the Minor Memorial Library, if Commission members would like to donate to buying a 'brick' in memory of Joni Weller and all present did so.

Cathy Masi had come upon an email dating back to 2013 from Hugh Rawson regarding a proposed ordinance that would give property owners recourse if their rights to enjoy their property were being infringed upon by neighbors or their property values were being negatively impacted by the actions of neighbors. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting. Cathy will resend/forward Hugh's email to all members and to Friends.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 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 13, 2017 MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Ron Faanes, Co-Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Trudy Swenson, Cecelia Santillo and Russ Pribanic (A).

Members Absent: Timothy Flanagan (A).

Guest: Kim Cartwright and Teresa Roxburgh, Director of the Minor Memorial Library

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 8th meeting was made by Gary Steinman and seconded by Trudy Swenson. The minutes were unanimously approved by those present at that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT, GUESTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Town Wants To Know

Teresa Roxburgh distributed Sarah Griswold's synopsis of the 2018 Town Wants To Know series "Our Water in Our Environment" which met with approval by members. The Library and the Conservation Commission are working in tandem to provide these public seminars. The first is scheduled for January 21st and the presenter will be Tim Abbott from the Housatonic Valley Association on the geology of Roxbury, the impact of the glaciers and the effects on groundwater recharge areas. The second in the series on February 24th will be a hands-on children's program entitled "The Incredible Journey Adventures of a Water Drop" presented by Carol Haskins of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition. The third, scheduled for March 18th, will deal with safe lawn care and septic system maintenance to protect the aquifer. A June guided trail walk and wetlands program is being finalized under the direction of Ann Astarita of the Roxbury Land Trust. More events are in the planning stage for Fall.

Emails distributed as received. Copies of The Habitat were passed out. Cathy Masi did send the minutes of the November meeting to the Friends of the Roxbury Conservation Commission as well as to members and will continue to do so.

REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

- Presentation of Thank You to Wayne Ferris

Ron Faanes displayed the photo of members giving Wayne Ferris of the Roxbury Market a framed certificate of appreciation with a photo of the tractor he donated for the Tractor Parade.

Gary Steinman has prepared and submitted the Annual Report of the Commission's accomplishments and future goals.

Commission Summaries

Chairman Faanes had emailed members highlights of Commission Summaries prior to this meeting. Gary Steinman reported the Planning Commission will begin an 18 month review of the POCD Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission expects to address Town Character and Open Space in the 2018 lecture series.

OLD BUSINESS

Funding for Town Wants to Know Series

The funding has been generously donated anonymously.

Commission Budget

The budget is \$1,110. Gary Steinman reported that of this year's budget \$429.93 has been spent on Joey's Trail and \$492.64 is remaining.

Capital expenditure will be a dedicated Conservation Commission laptop PC estimated at \$500, along with Joey's Trail expenses of about \$500 and \$200 for memberships and miscellaneous.

Student-oriented Activities

Cecelia Santillo will renew her efforts in early spring to promote conservation for future Senior projects.

Joey's Trail

The Bench is now in place and the trail is looking quite enticing. Some trees and brush remain to be cleared. A woodland naturalistic garden will be designed for the area around the bench. Permanent marking of the trees and plants as an educational plan was discussed.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled

Composting

Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

Blight Ordinance

The 2013 draft of a blight ordinance had been circulated to members and it was deemed not to be appropriate for Roxbury. Members will research other towns' blight ordinances for one that might be a more suitable model.

Calendar for 2018 meetings

The calendar will be emailed to members, town officials and Friends.

Sustainability

Jessica Patterson has been appointed by the Selectmen as head of the Sustainability Committee and she is amenable to work with the Conservation Commission. The State is encouraging towns to participate in the program for recognition as a "sustainable town". Several commission members are willing to attend a Sustainability luncheon, date to be announced.

Recycling

Barbara Henry wants a more efficient recycling system. It was suggested by guest Kim Cartwright that Al of the Transfer Station be invited to a commission meeting to explain how recycling currently works.

Election of Officers

Motion made by Trudy Swenson to renew the current slate of officers for 2018. Motion seconded by Cecelia Santillo and approved by all members.

MEMBER COMMENT - N/A

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 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