



# 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 PM.

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 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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