



# 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 PM.

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 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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