



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 22nd 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