



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 14, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes and Alternate Joni Weller.

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson, Alternate Glenn van Moffaert and Alternate Timothy Flanagan.

Public Present: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – December 10, 2014

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- STATE OF CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. Draft Recommendations for Legislation, December 3, 2014. Received too late for action.
- Memo from First Selectman regarding the creation and submission of the 2015-2016 Operating Budget due February 13, 2015.
- Email from Cory McGuinn withdrawing from the Joey's Trail Project.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

N/A

##### Commission Summaries

N/A

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan is organizing a meeting. A motion was made by Ron Faanes to have Gary Steinman draft a notice to the Board of Selectmen of the Conservation Commission's intent to conduct a feasibility study on solarizing the landfill. Motion seconded by Cecelia Santillo. Motion approved by all.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

The Conservation Commission decided to continue on with the creation of Joey's Trail. Donations for land clearing, excavation, gravel, surveying and legal services have been obtained. Special trail markers and arrows will be needed and Gary Steinman has contacted the company who manufactured the Seth Warner trail markers.

##### Composting

David Blynn has been invited to attend the next meeting.

Open Space Plan, review/revise.

Discussion tabled.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning draft of programs and priorities was reviewed in detail. Well water testing at discounted prices will be offered every two years instead of annually, vendor willing. A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Cathy Masi to develop a program for "A Town Wants to Know" seminar on maximizing living more effectively in smaller spaces through good design and energy efficiency, with a memo to the Board of Selectman for approval of same. Members plan to create an insert for the upcoming spring edition of the Town Newsletter to raise awareness of the dangers of pesticides and herbicides to health and groundwater with the hope of staving off such usage. The 'tree nursery' site at the Library was discussed as an option to help in the replacement of dead/decayed roadside trees taken down. Varieties compatible with power lines could be grown.

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Town Wants To Know

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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 FEBRUARY 11, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

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

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Public Present: David Blyn

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – January 14, 2015

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Email on 2015 CT Trails Weekend Update scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Email from the CT Forest and Park Association outlining the 2015 Conservation Agenda for Land and People.
- Email from Russ Dirienzo regarding the EPOC Environmental Grant Program. Suggestion to endeavor to obtain a grant for the Joey's Trail Project.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Gary Steinman, pursuant to instructions decided upon at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, issued a letter to the First Selectmen dated January 15, 2015 requesting approval of the Board of Selectmen to produce an educational Town Wants to Know Program on creating smaller, more environmentally-friendly residential units. The Board of Selectmen requested the Conservation Commission confer with the Planning Commission so as to avoid any conflict with the Planning Commission's continuing charge concerning Smart Growth.

The Conservation Commission, at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, authorized Gary Steinman to issue a letter to the First Selectman requesting approval of the Board of Selectmen to carry out a feasibility study on the installation of a municipal solar facility on the old landfill on Lower County Road. The Board of Selectmen approved the request at their special meeting on February 5, 2015. Timothy Flanagan, chairman of the CETF, will lead that study.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes: Planning – The Planning Commission Chair reported the Conservation Commission has asked to have placed on the agenda of the Board of Selectmen an educational seminar on small, green homes. The Planning Commission agreed to table discussion regarding this proposal until the next meeting.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan attended a renewable energy conference conducted by the firm of Murtha and Collins in Trumbull.

The feasibility study of solarizing the Roxbury transfer station was endorsed by the Board of Selectmen. If the panels are near power lines, the town can assign the power generated to five municipal buildings. The Roxbury landfill is a simple landfill with no membrane, just dirt overfill. 0.8 acres of solar panels could possibly be installed at the site.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Composting

David Blyn, as a local expert in composting, was guest speaker. He recommends using what's available – leaves are one of the most balanced ingredients in a successful composting project and the leaves break down in just one year. For homeowners, he suggests using paper, tissues, cardboard. Home composting can save the Town money by reducing the volume of trash. The major cost in recycling and trash removal is the cost of transportation added Timothy Flanagan. It was suggested by Cathy Masi to put out a call to homeowners to share their methods of successful home composting. Composting stabilizes nitrogen and kill most pathogens. Anaerobic composting (without air) is a less effective process while aerobic composting with air and water works more efficiently. The introduction of populace microbes aids the process.

### Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled

### Strategic Planning

Tabled

### Joey's Trail

The Conservation Commission is waiting to hear if the family is willing to have the trail just using Town property.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Budget

The Commission will propose keeping the budget the same as last year.

### Town Wants to Know

Motion by Timothy Flanagan, seconded by Cecelia Santillo, to have Gary Steinman write a note to the Planning Commission requesting their suggestions for our proposed seminar on smaller, greener residential units. All in favor.

## **MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

## **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 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 MARCH 11, 2015

### 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, Trudy Swenson, Ron Faanes, and Timothy Flanagan.

Members Absent: Alternate Glenn van Moffaert and Alternate Joni Weller.

Public Present: Tom Awlasewicz and Curtis Smith.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – February 11, 2015

A motion was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Timothy Flanagan to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the February 11 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

See comments under Joey's Trail.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Planning Chair Peter Filous regarding the Living Well in Smaller Spaces proposed program.
- Email dated February 23, 2015 forwarded by Barbara Henry of the grant opportunity offered by the HRP fund.
- Email dated February 24, 2015 forwarded by Barbara Henry of the grant opportunity offered by First Light.
- Email dated February 24, 2015 from Meghan Ruta Lally of CT DEEP regarding the highlights of the 2014 macroinvertebrate program.
- Email dated March 5, 2015 from Bike Walk of CT regarding the Biennial Summit on April 23, 2015.
- Email dated March 6, 2015 from Margaret Minor regarding WEC proposal to ban fracking waste in Washington, CT.
- Email dated March 6, 2015 from CFPA (CT Forest and Park Association) regarding Science Sunday March 15, 2015.
- Email dated March 10, 2015 from CT Green Building Council regarding the BEST Program on March 19 and April 16, 2015.
- Email dated March 11, 2015 from Meghan Ruta Lally of DEEP regarding the Macroinvertebrate Study.
- Brochure concerning 2015 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference on March 21, 2015 at Wesleyan.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Living Well in Smaller Spaces: Pursuant to the Commission's instructions at the February 11, 2015 meeting, the Chair issued an email to Peter Filous, Chair of the Planning Commission, regarding the Conservation Commission's planned educational "A Town Wants to Know" program "Living Well in Smaller Spaces". The email invited the Planning Commission to identify any agenda conflicts it might perceive and requested input concerning any relevant topics the Planning Commission might want included in support of its growth planning work. Planning Commission Chair Peter Filous responded by email indicating that the Commission has been briefed upon receiving a copy of Gary Steinman's original memo to Barbara Henry and the matter has been included on its March 12<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget. Gary Steinman has submitted the Commission's budget.

#### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Commissions and report items of potential interest to the Conservation Commission.

Historic District – Partial Demolition Permits. It was agreed the building department be encouraged to allow limited demolition permits for compromised sections of historic structures.

Inland Wetlands Commission – Russ Dirienzo clarified a state regulation regarding clearing land: a soil and erosion control plan must be approved for any clearing of 1 to 5 acres. The Commission agreed Mr. Dirienzo should draft a proposed Wetland regulation making any disturbance of 1 to 5 acres, regardless of wetlands, a regulated activity.

Planning - meeting cancelled.

Zoning - meeting cancelled.

#### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan reported the Selectmen have endorsed a feasibility study to be done to determine if a solar energy generating panel system could be installed over the old landfill which would supply electricity to five municipal buildings: the town hall, the fire station, the senior center, the library and the maintenance center.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Joey's Trail

Curt Smith, a land surveyor, is donating his services for any survey work necessary in creating the trail which will be in memory of Joey Awlasewicz. Joey's parents are in support of the plan for the trail to pass over town property. A grant application for materials for a wetlands boardwalk crossing may be appropriate. It was agreed the trail should be kept as natural as possible with little disturbance.

Motion by Ron Faanes, seconded by Trudy Swenson, to accept a grant proposal with minor changes, all in favor.

##### Composting

Tim Flanagan recapped David Blyn's opinion of home composting being the most effective way of reducing materials to be transported to the transfer station. It was agreed that the Roxbury Recycling Brochure be updated to reflect the new standards of recycling.

##### Macroinvertebrate Sampling Program

Due to the increased complexity requested by the DEEP in the regimen of the sampling process, the Commission's program may be reduced in scope. The decision is still open.

##### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Email correspondence with the Planning Commission is ongoing and the program is in its early stages.

##### Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled.

##### Strategic Planning

The Commission added recycling to the Strategic Plan as a future topic for a Town Wants to Know series of educational programs.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### First Light Grant Opportunity

The Commission discussed potential projects for a grant.

#### **MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 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 APRIL 8, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

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

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Public Present: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – March 11, 2015

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Ron Faanes to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the March 11 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Email dated March 12, 2015 from CTGBC (CT Green Building Council) concerning upcoming events.
- Email dated March 13, 2015 from Peter Filous apologizing to Gary Steinman for unprofessional behavior at the Planning Commission Meeting held on March 12, 2015 and adding appreciation of the Conservation Commission's efforts in producing a future town educational program on smaller, greener, energy efficient housing.
- Email dated March 14, 2015 from Rivers Alliance concerning the State Conveyance Act having to do with the transfer of state lands to municipalities, individuals or other properties.
- Email dated March 14, 2015 from Rivers Alliance concerning Land Conservation Call to Action/CT Land Conservation Council.
- Email dated March 31, 2015 from Kim Baron regarding quarterly budget report.
- Email dated March 31, 2015 from Meghan Ruta Lally of CT DEEP transmitting the Macroinvertebrate Study Report.
- Email dated March 31, 2015 from CFPA regarding April 2015 events and programs.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Living Well in Smaller Spaces – At its March meeting, the Planning Commission considered the Conservation Commission's plan to offer this program and it supports this program and wishes to be kept informed on the information provided by our candidate speakers in the preparation process. Gary Steinman invited the members of the Planning Commission to attend Conservation Commission meetings whenever a candidate speaker is on the agenda. The Planning Commission feels that the proposed program cannot exclude the issues of parcel size and common ownership of land despite the very narrow scope of the topic which is basically living space.

Town Budget Process – The Board of Finance declined to include a grant supporting an EV charging station in the Town's 2015-15 Capital Budget. The Board of Finance's annual budget public hearing will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The Town's Annual Budget Meeting will be held on May 19, 2015 at 7 PM.

### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Commissions and report items of potential interest to the Conservation Commission.

Historic District – Plans are underway to reprint the survey book. The Blight Ordinance probably will not be enacted.

Planning – Peter Filous, Chair, attended an educational seminar presented by the Northwest Hills Council of Government regarding land use procedures. All housing and land use matters including open space should go to the Planning Commission first. It was agreed that all commissions should communicate. Gary Steinman noted that Town Character is one of the charges of the Conservation Commission and any matters that may affect this should be referred to the Conservation Commission. The Planning Commission has no conflicts regarding the proposed educational program regarding Living Well in Smaller Spaces.

Zoning – Public hearing on proposed text amendments concerning portable storage containers, land filling, electrical meter pods and yard definition – Motion to approve.

### The Clean Energy Task Force

Tabled

### Friends of the Lake Dates

Save the Lake Day is May 23, 2015, Dine Around is July 25, 2015 and the Annual Party date is to be determined. Ron Faanes reported the lake is having a major debris problem.

### CT Green Building Council

Gary Steinman and Cecelia Santillo attended the first part of the Energy and Environment Series held at the Norwalk Community College. The point was made to be selective of materials chosen to avoid the off-gases produced by certain paints, sheet rock, etc. Perhaps the Commission should incorporate elements of this program into the upcoming 'Living Well in Smaller Spaces' program.

### Conservation Commission Budget

Motion by Cathy Masi and seconded by Ron Faanes to approve the purchase of markers for Joey's Trail, the purchase of a canopy for outdoor events and a grommet kit to attach the commission's banners. Motion approved by all members present. Ron Faanes will work with Judy Moker, the town's purchasing agent.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Joey's Trail

Curt Smith and Gary Steinman plan to walk the proposed trail now that the snow cover has disappeared.

### Composting

Tabled

### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Ron Faanes has invited Phil DeVries, a local architect, to speak at the May meeting. It is time to set a date and location for the program, hopefully October 25, 2015 as the optimum date.

### Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled

### Strategic Planning

At the last meeting, the Commission added recycling to the Strategic Plan as a future topic for "A Town Wants to Know" series of educational programs. Review of Strategic Planning will continue at future meetings.

#### First Light (HRP) Grant Opportunity

Ron Faanes and Trudy Swenson are collaborating on a grant from HRP for \$10,000 to be used in the refurbishing of the Town Pond on River Road. The plan is to have an aeration fountain and pump system installed to invigorate and restore the pond to a healthy state. The goal is the regeneration of the numerous community activities once originated around the pond. Roxbury is one of the few towns lacking a public swimming area. A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Joni Weller to approve the direction of the grant proposal and the work as progressed. Motion approved by all members present.

#### **MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

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

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 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 13, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes, Alternate Timothy Flanagan seated for Trudy Swenson and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson and Alternate Joni Weller.

Public Present: Phil DeVreis

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – April 8, 2015

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Timothy Flanagan to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the April 8 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil DeVreis, an invited guest, spoke conceptually on ideas to be possibly incorporated into the upcoming town seminar "Living Well in Smaller Spaces".

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter dated April 10 from Aquarion requesting nominations for the Aquarion Environmental Champions Awards. No action.
- Email dated April 10 forwarded by Judi Moker re FOIA Workshop on May 14 in Torrington.
- Letter dated April 20 from Solid Earth Technologies proposing the use of their helical pile product to bridge wetlands for Joey's Trail.
- Email dated May 4 from Even Abramson encouraging passage of local ordinances permanently banning fracking waste.
- Email exchange dated May 10 et seq between Commission member Trudy Swenson and Rivers Alliance concerning white residue in river.
- Email dated May 11 from Meghan Lally of DEEP concerning general availability of 2014 RBV report on DEEP website.
- Email dated May 11 from Curt Smith re Joey's Trail project/obtaining land maps and records.
- Email dated May 12 from Cynthia Newby advising the Commission of the Library's agreement to co-sponsor "Living Well in Smaller Spaces" and suggesting we also contact Marc Olivieri as a potential speaker.
- Spring 2015 "The Habitat"
- Additional Correspondence (forwarded on receipt). Various announcements from Connecticut Green Building Council, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut and Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

Living Well in Smaller Spaces. The Library has agreed to co-sponsor the upcoming seminar.

EPOC Grant Application. The grant application for Joey's Trail was denied.

FOTL Dates. Save the Lake Day is May 23. Dine Around is July 25 and the Annual Party date is to be determined.

Town Budget Process – The Town’s annual Budget Meeting will be held on May 19, 2015 at 7 PM.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Commissions and report items of potential interest to the Conservation Commission.

Historic District. The Roxbury Station has a potential buyer who inquired if the property was in the historic district, which it is not although it is in the Survey. The potential buyer has agreed to reconstruct a building the same as the original.

Inland Wetlands Commission.

- Sheep will be utilized to obliterate knotweed and bamboo on Old Roxbury Road.
- Pesticide applications have been submitted for the pond at 167 Tophet Road and the Town Pond on 55 River Road.
- Boy Scout Michael Taylor proposed to build a boardwalk at the Land Trust Preserve on Flagg Swamp Road.
- Presentation by Elliot Davis, potential new owner of the Roxbury Station, for a craft distillery which would produce very little wastewater. A new well and septic would be installed.

Planning. Meeting cancelled.

Zoning. Presentation by Elliot Davis detailing a proposed business use for a craft distillery which would employ 4-6 people.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan reported the author of the EPA report is assembling data for the committee.

CT Green Building Council

Cecelia Santillo distributed notations made at the meeting she and Gary Steinman attended. The notes included tips and quick-fixes for homeowners to save on energy usage.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Joey’s Trail

Gary Steinman reported there may be a way to circumvent some of the wetlands if certain boundaries can be ascertained and Curt Smith is working on this. A work day will be scheduled, probably in August. The beginning portion of the trail should be able to done and the remainder may be on hold depending on funding.

Composting

Timothy Flanagan is working with David Blynn on the creation of a handout for home-composting.

Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Ron Faanes will invite an appropriate knowledgeable speaker to the next Commission meeting.

Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled

Strategic Planning

Tabled

First Light (HRP) Grant Opportunity

Ron Faanes and Trudy Swenson submitted a grant for \$10,000 to be used in the refurbishing of the Town Pond on River Road. The plan is to have a solar-powered aeration fountain and pump system installed to invigorate and restore the pond to a healthy state. June 1 is the date of the awarding announcement.

**MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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 JUNE 10, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

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

Members Absent: Trudy Swenson and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Public Present: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – May 13, 2015

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the May 13 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Proof of the marker for Joey's Trail, Seth Warner Trails.
- Letter dated June 1, 2015 from First Light Power advising the Conservation Commission our grant submission to install an aeration fountain at the town pond was not selected.
- Additional Correspondence (forwarded on receipt). Various announcements from Connecticut Green Building Council, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut and Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

FOTL Dates. Dine Around is July 25 and the Annual Party date is to be determined.

Town Budget Process – The Conservation Commission's budgetary request for \$1,110 for the next fiscal year was approved. Trail makers for Joey's Trail and an event canopy will be charged to this year's budget.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Commissions and report items of potential interest to the Conservation Commission.

The craft distillery proposal for the historic railroad station property is progressing.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman advised Timothy Flanagan of the existence of CEFIA's outline of how to begin the process of a solarizing project at a landfill.

##### Dear Crabby Developments

The column will next focus on home composting as per the suggestion of David Blynn. A logo for the "Dear Crabby" town newsletter series was presented to the commission.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman reported Curt Smith is continuing his work on the project.

### Composting

Timothy Flanagan will be working with David Blynn on the creation of a handout for home-composting.

### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Ron Faanes proposed having Russ Dirienzo and Bob Petricone of the Litchfield Community Land Trust as speakers for the event.

### Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled

### Strategic Planning

The Conservation Commission accomplishes more, it appears, when just two programs are targeted at a time as opposed to tackling the strategic plan as a whole with sub-committees as originally proposed when the commission was activated.

### Streamwalk

Dan Sherr has proposed doing a streamwalk of the Bantam River which has an extreme invasive plant problem. The Bantam supplies much of the water for the Shepaug River. Commission members were in favor of pursuing this streamwalk with the goal of pinpointing problematic areas.

### Easements

Gary Steinman related that Hugh Rawson, former commission member, had been an advocate of having the town create and adhere to a template regarding the writing of easements. In general, the town prefers not to accept easements due to the additional responsibility incurred.

### First Light (HRP) Grant Opportunity

Ron Faanes and Trudy Swenson had submitted a grant for \$10,000 to be used in the refurbishing of the Town Pond on River Road. The plan was to have a solar-powered aeration fountain and pump system installed to invigorate and restore the pond to a healthy state. The grant was not awarded to the project this year. Perhaps a resubmission for next year would be advisable.

## **MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

## **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Roxbury Town Hall.

## **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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

Conservation Commission

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING JULY 8, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Secretary Cathy Masi and Trudy Swenson.

Members Absent: Ron Faanes, Timothy Flanagan, Alternate Joni Weller and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

#### GUESTS:

Marc Olivieri and Robert Petricone.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – June 10, 2015

A motion was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Gary Steinman to approve the Minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the June 10 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Mailing dated June 17, 2015 from CT Land Conservation Council.
- Email traffic dated July 1-2, 2015 with Nadia Racz, a young Roxbury resident interested in volunteering.
- Email date July 4, 2015 from River's Alliance commenting upon CT legislative session.
- Email traffic dated July 7, 2015 with Lynn Werner/ HVA regarding Living Well in Small Spaces.
- Email attachment from Kim Baron regarding our 2015-16 Budget.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chairman Report

FOTL Dates. Dine Around is July 25 and the Annual Party date is to be determined.

##### Parcel Index

The Index is relatively up-to-date as there has been relatively little real estate transfer and easement activity this year.

##### Budget

Both the canopy and trail markers purchases were completed within the last fiscal year and expended from last year's budget.

##### Tractor Parade

It has been proposed that the Conservation Commission participate with a float in the tractor parade this fall.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes regularly reviews the minutes of other Commissions and reports items of potential interest to the Conservation Commission. The most noteworthy summary involved a presentation to the Zoning Commission regarded the 95 acre property on Southbury Road upon which the newest cell tower is located. The proposal

concept called for 45 sites with one or two units per site and with each unit being approximately 1200 square feet. The plan suggests utilizing the State Health Codes versus the more rigorous DEEP regulations which could be expensive to implement and maintain. The presenters, Jay Keillor and Liam King, have requested Peter Filous to have the Planning Commission review the proposal.

#### The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman and Timothy Flanagan held a teleconference with a solarization consultant and a provider regarding the landfill solar project. The provider was quite helpful in offering suggestions for procedure but does not work with municipalities. The consultant would be willing to do a pro bono feasibility assessment to develop a criteria for the bidding process. With 30% CEFIA incentives and a STEAP grant, the project could potentially pay for itself within two to three years.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman displayed the newly manufactured marker for Joey's Trail, Seth Warner Trails. One hundred of the markers have been made which should be sufficient for the entire trail.

##### Composting

Tabled

##### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Marc Olivieri, a local builder, talked about his ideas on effective, efficient living space using the concept of 'non-redundancy' and Robert Petricone of the Litchfield Land Trust shared his experiences on affordable housing in Litchfield.

##### Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled

##### Strategic Planning

Discussion tabled

#### **MEMBER COMMENT**

N/A

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

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2015

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

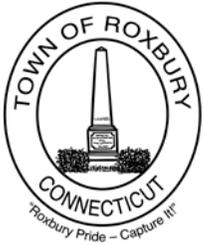
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM.

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 AUGUST 12, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

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

Guests: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – July 8, 2015

A motion was made by Cecelia Santillo and seconded by Trudy Swenson to approve the Minutes of the July 8, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the July 8 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

#### CORRESPONDENCE

None

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair's Report

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reported on the Southbury Road resident issued cease and desist order for failure to follow building permit guidelines and mitigated plan.

Distillery on the Railroad Station property is moving forward.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Sandra Cointreau proposed to write up RFP. Timothy Flanagan consulted with the Town of Branford to gain copy of a like RFP. Awaiting response. Gary Steinman and Ron Faanes to conduct a walk through on the landfill property to see potential layout feasibility.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman is awaiting feedback from Curt Smith's survey.

##### Composting

Timothy Flanagan gave copies of simple plan found on line. Timothy will work with David Blynn to produce a Town wide compost plan for residents come Spring 2016.

##### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces:

The Commission spent time discussing focus, use of guest speakers and a panel of experts. Cathy Masi suggested a clean outline. Gary Steinman to report talking points. May want to bring in an interior designer/stager to address simple ways to treat small spaces. Ron Faanes suggested Russ Dirienzo present/discuss geological limitations for smart growth.

Open Space Plan, review/revise

Discussion tabled

Strategic Planning

Discussion tabled

Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes suggested reorienting Commission's placement of cover and table. Will seek suggestions for the commission's own tractor parade float. Commission will address in September meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Proposed Compost Song Lyrics (to the tune of Janice Joplin's "Mercedes Benz")

Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Compostin' Bin?  
My friends all have sweet flower gardens, I must make amends.  
Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends,  
So Lord, won't you buy me a Compostin' Bin ?

Oh Lord, won't you buy me a colorful flowering tree?  
Digging for potatoes trying to find free  
I wait for delivery each day until three,  
So oh Lord, won't you buy me a colorful flowering tree?

Oh Lord, won't you buy me a sweet tomato pie round?  
I'm counting on you, Lord, please don't let me down.  
Prove that you love me and let garden around,  
Oh Lord, won't you buy me a sweet tomato pie round?

Everybody!  
Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Compostin' Bin?  
My friends all have sweet flower gardens, I must make amends,  
Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends,  
So oh Lord, won't you buy me a Compostin' Bin ?

That's it!

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Timothy Flanagan*  
Timothy Flanagan 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 SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:26 PM.

Members Present: Chairman Gary Steinman, Secretary Cathy Masi, Ron Faanes and Alternate Joni Weller (seated for Trudy Swenson). Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo, Trudy Swenson, Timothy Flanagan and Alternate Glenn van Moffaert.

Guests Present: Bonnie Bradley and Richard Burmann, both of the Council on Aging. Elaine Urban, interior designer and member of the Zoning Commission.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – August 12, 2015

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Joni Weller to approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2015 meeting as written. Motion approved by all members who were present at the August 12 meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Bradley, Richard Burmann and Elaine Urban were invited as guests to discuss the upcoming Town Want To Know public seminar “Living Well in Smaller Spaces”.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Forwarded on receipt

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair’s Report

Vacancy on the Commission: Commission Alternate Glenn van Moffaert has tendered his resignation due to out-of-state professional obligations.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reported the distillery on the Railroad Station property is moving forward with enthusiastic Historic District Commission approval.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Gary Steinman, Ron Faanes and Timothy Flanagan attended the Board of Selectmen’s meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> and submitted a Landfill Solar Feasibility Study Progress Report which was well received by the Selectmen. DEEP approval is needed prior to construction of a solar farm. With grant funding from STEEP and Eversource, the project has the ability to reduce municipal electrical costs substantially.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Joey’s Trail

No changes

##### Composting

Tabled

Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Bonnie Bradley, Richard Burmann gave their opinionw on the needs of senior citizens regarding housing and Elaine Urban talked about points to cover as an invited speaker at the upcoming Town Want To Know public seminar. Ron Faanes has lined up four specialists to give 10 to 12 minute talks followed by a question and answer session. Topics selected thus far are geological limitations, housing trusts, sustainable housing and interior designs with multi-functional spaces. Plans will be finalized at the October meeting.

Open Space Plan, review/revise

With the resignation of Glenn van Moffaert, the Open Space Plan revue is now under Future and Tabled Agenda Items.

Strategic Planning

Discussion tabled

Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes and Gary Steinman are preparing to have projecting, cycling presentations of Conservation Commission achievements and activities. The new canopy will display the Commission's banners and will afford room for tables and handouts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2015

**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*



# TOWN OF ROXBURY CONNECTICUT

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

## ROXBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Cecelia Santillo and Joni Weller.

#### GUESTS:

Russ Pribanic, future member of the Commission.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting – September 9, 2015

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

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Forwarded on receipt

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

Chair's Report

Vacancy on the Commission will be filled by Russ Pribanic.

Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes scanned through Town Commission minutes and included summaries from Inland Wetlands notably the Cease and Desist Order at 53 Southbury Road, from Planning regarding subdivision of a 45 acre parcel and Zoning dealing with a request for changing the regulations to allow mobile food vending.

The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan and Barbara Hendry attended the Energize CT Clean Energy Award ceremony. Roxbury won a bronze medal. Barbara Henry notified the Conservation Commission that the weeds have been cut in the area of a potential solar energy generation site at the landfill so the site can be further assessed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Joey's Trail

Gary Steinman will lay out the route and request approval from the Selectmen as the trail will be entirely on Town property.

Composting

Tabled

### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Ron Faanes has three guest speakers arranged. Ms. Desalvo will speak on new construction and Elaine Urban will speak on multiple-use living space and designing for the effect of largeness while keeping the space relatively small. Bob Petricone will discuss options for developing residences in a cost controlled manner. At the conclusion of the talks the speakers will sit on a panel for a question and answer session.

### Strategic Planning

Discussion tabled

### Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes and Gary Steinman are preparing to have projecting, cycling presentations of Conservation Commission achievements and activities. The new canopy will display the Commission's banners and will afford room for tables and handouts.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Recycling Discussion

A considerable amount of time was spent on discussing the article published in the New York Times, which was brought to the attention of the Commission by Trudy Swenson, concerning the validity of recycling. Timothy Flanagan, from a professional standpoint, maintained that recycling is indeed not only ecologically beneficial but financially prudent. And, in the future, contracts could be structured with recycling vendors that would benefit the town monetarily.

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

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi

*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 18, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

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

Members Absent: None.

Guests: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting – October 14, 2015

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2015 meeting with minor spelling corrections. Motion approved by all members who were present at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

- Email from Rivers Alliance concerning herbicides and GMO labeling.
- Email from Barbara Henry to Mary Wilson regarding the “Freedom Lawn” initiative in response to her email of concern for the loss of pollinators from herbicides.
- Email from Barbara Henry concerning Eversource’s use of herbicides on stumps after tree trimming.
- Copy of Russ Pribanic’s appointment letter.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chair’s Report

Welcome to Russ Pribanic as an Alternate on the Conservation Commission replacing Glenn van Moffaert.

Joey’s Trail. Curtis Smith reports he has all the records he needs from the Town Clerk to lay out Joey’s Trail.

CACIWC Lifetime Achievement Award. Margaret Miner has been named the recipient of CACIWC Lifetime Achievement Award based on the nomination from the Conservation Commission.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes scanned through Town Commission minutes and included summaries from Inland Wetlands notably the ongoing pool-related issue at 53 Southbury Road, from Planning regarding the reestablishment of the Smart Growth program and Zoning dealing with mobile food vending and the possibility of the Board of Selectmen issuing vendor permits.

##### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan has a meeting planned for Tuesday night with All GreenIt president Peter Stevenson pertaining to bringing solar energy to five municipal buildings. Gary Steinman asked new member Russ Pribanic if he would join the Clean Energy Task Force and Russ agreed. Timothy Flanagan reported the topography of the closed landfill would preclude the visibility of the solar panels. The task force consists of Sandra Cointreau, Tim Flanagan, Walter Pappas, Ron Faanes, Gary Steinman and now Russ Pribanic.

### Town Wants to Know, Living Well in Smaller Spaces

Ron Faanes reported poor attendance even though there was advance PR via Voices, Facebook and the Town sandwich board.

### Composting

Timothy Flanagan said the pending topic will be the Spring program.

### Tractor Parade

Ron Faanes reported the event went very nicely and was well received. The canopy was set up in a good location and a continuous rotating display of slides along with a compilation of 'Dear Crabby' articles and the Battle Swamp river walk report were available to the public. Ron Faanes would love to have a float in the parade next year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Joey's Trail

Curtis Smith has developed a preliminary trail layout superimposed on an aerial map showing the trail entirely on Town property. Gary Steinman hopes to see the trail connect from the Booth Free School. The trail would be a mowed path through the field and a pea gravel trail elsewhere with post markers in the parking lot and by the stone wall so as to not interfere with the mowing of the field. Trudy Swenson questioned the availability of parking and it was deemed that sufficient parking exists both at the Senior Center and the Library.

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson for the Commission to endorse the conceptual plan as proposed in Curtis Smith's presentation. All were in favor.

### Strategic Planning

Gary Steinman had previously distributed lists of projects and suggested the Commission organize how to proceed. Issues to be decided included standing committees, community volunteers and how often to update the open space plan.

### Recycling Discussion

Timothy Flanagan proposed that when the Town's recycling contract comes up for renewal, a profitable approach might be appropriate, however that date is far in the future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Additions to the Agenda

- The nomination of Margaret Miner for the CACIWC Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Approval of the Annual Report.

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to add the two items to the agenda. Approved by all.

### The nomination of Margaret Miner for the CACIWC Lifetime Achievement Award.

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Cecelia Santillo to approve the nomination and the motion was unanimously approved.

### Approval of the Annual Report.

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Ron Faanes to approve the Annual Report as presented by Gary Steinman and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **FUTURE AND TABLED AGENDA ITEMS**

- A Conversation on Trees
- Conservation Plan
- Review/revise Land Use Guide
- Open Space Plan, review/revise

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi

*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 9, 2015

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

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

Guests: None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### Regular Meeting - November 18, 2015

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Timothy Flanagan to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting with one minor correction regarding a meeting date. Motion was approved by all members who were present at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE

Email dated December 9, 2015 from Russ Dirienzo notifying the Commission of the availability of EPOC grants. Email correspondence has been forwarded upon receipt.

#### REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### Chairman's Report

Joey's Trail - The Commission's approval of Curtis Smith trail concept with minor changes was conveyed to Curtis along with a suggestion later made by Barbara Henry.

Land Use Chairs Meeting - Gary Steinman attended the Land Use Chairs meeting called by the First Selectmen on November 19 and conveyed the Commission's progress on Joey's Trail and on Solar at the landfill. Housing and Smart Growth were the main topics of discussion. Gary Steinman distributed a list prepared by Peter Filous outlining preliminary thoughts regarding approaches to the development of smaller scale homes primarily through common interest ownership in small subdivisions.

CACIWC Lifetime Achievement Award - Margaret Miner received and acknowledged receipt of the award. Alan J. Siniscalchi, CACIWC President, contacted Gary Steinman to thank the Conservation Commission for the nomination.

##### Commission Summaries

Ron Faanes reviewed other Town Commission minutes and made note of the following:

The Historic District Commission's Wendy Walker attended a community meeting in New Haven where street lighting was a topic. The utility company plans transferring ownership and maintenance of street lighting to the towns. Color-adjustable LED lighting was suggested.

Inland Wetlands Commissioner Russ Dirienzo explained that the Commission would like to see a qualified environmental professional oversee and be responsible for a property owner's effort to remove invasive species and to replant with native desirables in the Spring.

The Planning Commission discussed Smart Growth and housing.

### The Clean Energy Task Force

Timothy Flanagan reported meeting with All GreenIt president Peter Stevenson who agreed the acreage of the old landfill was sufficient to support the needed solar array for five municipal buildings and he suggested doing one building at a time. The cost for the arrays alone to cover approximately one acre would be \$650,000 to \$700,000 exclusive of engineering.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Joey's Trail

Barbara Henry had suggested having the trail hug the stone wall which also lengthens the distance of the path. An email was received from Russ Dirienzo regarding applications to the EPOC environmental grant program. Gary Steinman raised the question does the Commission want to re-submit another grant for Joey's Trail for a lesser amount now that proposed route is less extensive. In the fields the paths would be grass and in the woods the paths could be pea gravel or another composite which looks like wood chips. A motion was made to re-submit the EPOC grant by Ron Faanes and seconded by Timothy Flanagan. All were in favor.

#### Recycling

Nothing to report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 2016 Commission Meeting Calendar

A motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Ron Faanes to approve the proposed meeting schedule calendar with one date change, from February 10 to February 17, and was unanimously approved.

#### Election of Officers for 2016

A motion was made by Ron Faanes and seconded by Trudy Swenson to nominate the current officers and the motion was unanimously approved. The current officers were deemed willing to serve another term and a motion was made by Trudy Swenson and seconded by Timothy Flanagan to accept the slate of officers as nominated and all were in favor.

### **MEMBER COMMENT**

After some discussion regarding the removal of invasive plants it was decided to have Ron Faanes approach 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. These materials could possibly be distributed by the Inland Wetlands Commission upon applications for the removal of invasive species.

Ron Faanes reported he, his wife Sharon and Gary Lord strung holiday lights on the tree at the Library after Gary Lord's son did some much needed pruning with the result the tree looks great. The lights were sponsored by the Roxbury Bridgewater Garden Club.

### **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 January 13, 2015

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cathy Masi*

Cathy Masi, Secretary

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