



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Craig B. Henrici  
Mayor

Hamden Government Center  
2750 Dixwell Ave  
Hamden, CT 06518  
Tel: (203) 287-7100  
Fax: (203) 287-7101

### NATURAL RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

**MINUTES: THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION**, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday February 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Richard Bell, Ted Kennedy, Michael McManus, Hamilton Milroy, Bill Doheny, Mike Horn, Marigrace Larke

Commissioners Absent: Tom Parlapiano, Gwen Emery, Scott Leone

Others in Attendance: Gil Spenser, West Rock Ridge Advisory Commission (WRRAC)  
Gail Traester, Brooksvale Avenue Resident  
Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner  
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk

Mr. Horn called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Our guest at this meeting was Gil Spencer of the West Rock Ridge Advisory Commission. He told the commission that he was approached to join the WRRAC by Bill Doheny. They meet two times each year April and October with Pam Adams, head of State Parks, Mark Rickert and Lori Lindquist (head of Sleeping Giant District) of the DEP. They are advised of anything that is going on in the conservation area consisting of the area from Wintergreen to Main to Chauncy to Dunbar Hill Road to Hill Street). People in that area cannot sell their land or develop it in any way without permission from the state. If properties become available, the Commission discusses whether the property is important enough for the state to go after it. They advise the state. The hang gliding club wanted to have a launch site up on Hill Street. The WRRAC looked at the site and recommended the state approve the use, which it did. Woodbridge, Bethany, New Haven and Hamden are part of the West Rock Ridge Advisory Commission. The state just purchased the Raccio property on West Shepard. There are no funds currently available for the purchase of additional properties. The state has the right of first refusal on the land in the conservation area in excess of house and the building lot it is sited on.

There was discussion on a bobcat siting in a back yard on Main Street in Hamden. Most of the park is in Hamden and the RWA owns most of the back part of it. They have three full time employees responsible for several parks. They also depend on volunteers. Bill Doheny said West Rock Ridge State Park has \$1.5 million bonding authorization but they can't get the money.

Mr. Horn said Mr. Parlapiano will not be in attendance this evening, but he has advised that he does not wish to be nominated to serve as vice chair this year.

1. Review Minutes of January 28, 2009

**Mr. Doheny made a motion to accept the minutes of January 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

2. Old Business:

a. Continued Review and Update of Properties of Interest

Mr. Kops reported that the Town is trying to get a survey done of the Benedict property. We need the survey in order to get the \$405,000 grant from the state.

Dr. Doheny asked about the Stahnke property, but there was no news. RWA closed the deal on the Crosby Property.

Summary of Key Proposed Changes to the Zoning Regulations

Mr. Horn was apparently the only one to receive a copy of this document. He mentioned that on Page 2 that landfills and quarrying or mining are listed as prohibited uses unless they are part of a permit application. In that case the quarrying process would have to be completed within two years. There is no quarrying for quarrying sake. Mr. Milroy asked about Rocky Top. Mr. Kops explained that mining and quarrying would be prohibited because the property owner didn't file a plan to build anything.

Mr. Milroy mentioned the Green Award, and the Dunbar Hill Civic Association was suggested. He was wondering about the efforts of the Westwoods Road Civic Association because of their work toward eliminating the gravel pit. They spent a lot of time and money, hired an attorney, and asked for donations door to door. Ms. Traester said it was the Mt. Carmel Environmental Task Force that hired the attorney, not the Westwoods Road Neighborhood Association. Dr. Doheny said if it wasn't for the Dunbar Hill Civic Association and the housing downturn causing the developer to walk away, the Town would not have been able to acquire the Maselli property.

**Dr. Doheny made a motion that the Hamden Green award this year be given to the Dunbar Hill Civic Association. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Dr. Doheny said there is a committee looking at the property to decide what to do with it. Someone is interested in haying one of the fields. There is a house and barn on the property. The house is in the historical society's book, which says it was built in 1880's. The roof is relatively new, the fireplace is in tact, and the floors and trim are in tact. There is a barn with a chiller room partially underground in the barn. The siding on the barn is shot, but the post and beam construction is in good shape with no evidence of termites. It is structurally sound. The house is near the road so it could be cut out with an acre or so and sold. There are about 33 acres with three fields and 15 acres are open fields. There is a road network through the property. Dr. Doheny would be happy to lead a walk through the property if anyone is interested. Contaminants are shown on the maps. Mr. Horn suspects grassland birds live in there. Mr. Horn suggested perhaps we can save the property as #1 succession grassland. In the back there is a high area with a nice ravine with a stream at the bottom. Mr. Horn said the DEP is looking for this type of property and there is no money involved.

b. Review and Update on Town Hall Rework

Mr. Stalis and Ms. Emery reviewing this project, but neither are in attendance tonight.

3. New Business:
  - a. Continued Review and Comment on New Zoning Regulations

#### **Election of Officers**

Mr. Horn is willing to remain as chair, Mr. Stalis as corresponding secretary, and Ms. Larke volunteered to serve as vice chair.

**Dr. Doheny nominated Mr. Horn for president, Ms. Larke for vice president and Mr. Stalis for secretary. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Mr. Bell made a motion that the nominations be closed. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous in favor that Mr. Horn serve as Chairman, Ms. Larke as vice chairman and Mr. Stalis as secretary.**

Mr. Horn had a note from Ms. Roach that the Goodwill Store will now accept any brand of computers free of charge at 2901 State Street including monitors, cords, printers, etc.

#### NROS Earth Day Exhibit Plans

Mr. Horn reminded commissioners that Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> is the Earth Day Celebration. Mr. Milroy mentioned Mr. Brand's computer presentation. Mr. Larke mentioned that Tom Parlapiano does a lot of walks, and perhaps he could do a presentation on these walks. Commissioners will try to come up with some ideas for an Earth Day display.

4. Adjournment:

**Dr. Doheny made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk