

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION  
MEETING**

**April 25, 2012**

**THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE  
HAMDEN**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Michael Horn, Chairman  
Dr. William Doheny, Jr.  
Hamilton Milroy  
Daniel Camenga  
Peter Vitali  
Richard Bell  
Michael McManus  
Kevin Burgio

**Absent:** Mary Grace Larke  
Aris Stalis

**Others in attendance:** Daniel Kops, Assistant Town Planner

**Call to Order**

Chairman Horn called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

**1. Review: Minutes of March 28, 2012**

Chairman Horn asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the March 28, 2012 meeting. There are two corrections to the minutes, on page 2, first line the word *the* deleted and under McMahan Property, the fourth line the word *the*, should be *it* and *McMahon property* deleted. Dr. Doheny motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections, seconded by Mr. Vitali. ***The motion carried unanimously***

**2. Old Business:**

**a. Masselli Property – Conservation Easement**

Dr. Doheny spoke with the Mayor and he is disinclined to do the easement at this time. Mr. Horn received a letter from the Mayor but did not understand the explanation by the Mayor and he will continue to pursue this. Mr. Horn stated that the Commission continues to favor an immediate conservation easement on the property. He feels this issue has gone on too long and a resolution is necessary. The discussion continued regarding the intent that the property was purchased for the purpose of being kept open space.

Mr. Kops noted the Mayor's position is that he is responsible for the town, he is committed to

open space and at this time he doesn't see restricting the property. The Mayor doesn't want to cut off any options that may or may not appear.

Mr. Camenga noted that the Mayor's terms of office may not be in let's say in five years and the next administration has a more aggressive approach that could damage the original intention, granted that is his position and that's fair but what can the Commission do to move the conservation forward in order to get clarity so that some day an answer can be received on this? The question of safe guards to protect the property was raised. Mr. Horn stated that if any private sector or public sector wanted to use the property in any way it will require hearings and approval by the Legislative Council. The Commission could voice their opinion at that time. The question of a time frame being put on this was raised. The Commission could go before the Legislative Council and ask that they act on this.

Mr. Kops stated that the responsibility of the P& Z is two fold, one they would have to approve a plan of conservation and development which will be coming up for revision in another year and the rest of the time they hear applications the zoning regulations. He doesn't feel there is anything there for the Commission to do other than when the plan for conservation and development comes up for amendments there would be an advisory role there.

Dr. Doheny noted a plan of conservation and development ground work needs to be laid out first with the Council Members. Dr. Doheny questioned why this was a good idea three years ago but not now? Dr. Doheny said if the Town purchased this for open space, why not put up a straight easement and have it only for open space?

Mr. Horn suggested that the members speak with their representatives and the Environment Committee of the Legislative Council to see if they back the Commission, this may help.

Mr. Horn would like to see this item discussed in some part at each meeting to keep it from being forgotten.

A possible land purchase at West Rock is in process but there is an acreage question. The funds are in place and the State is actively pursuing it and the price is in.

A new communication bill is being voted on to allow Towns to put towers on ridges. The Commission of the DEEP has the power now to allow the companies to go on state property, but the presumption of evidence has to be that it is essential that it goes there and the new legislation has to say that it will do reversible harm if it goes there so the burden of proof is now on the applicant and removed from the Commissioner. There are questions that still need answering at this point.

Mr. Horn thanked all who participated on Earth Day. Mr. Vitali's display brought some interesting questions and awareness of their surroundings in town. Mr. Vitali did see that there can be more to the display for next year. He provided some pictures of the display but also noted various items that would be more helpful next year to help bring more people to the table.

### **3. New Business – Town Property Survey**

Mr. Vitali noted that the committee is at the point where they have to get the neighboring open space to the north, east, south or west. Mr. Vitali asked Mr. Kops about the numbers on the map he had. The numbers do not run in a sequential system and it is making the project more time consuming. There are three sets of numbers on the map and it is confusing to follow the map and he is looking for a system to streamline the process. The committee members are communicating by emails on a regular basis.

A guest appeared during the meeting and Mr. Horn inquired of her interest. She stated she is very interested in open space and Mr. Horn went on to describe the Commissions purpose and welcomed her to send a letter and resume to be considered as a member for the Commission.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Chairman Horn called for a motion to adjourn. At 8:20 p.m. Dr. Doheny motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Milroy. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka  
Substitute Clerk