



Town of Hamden

Planning and Zoning Department

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7070
Fax: (203) 287-7075

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION, Town of Hamden, will hold a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT and the following will be reviewed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mike McManus, Peter Vitali, Mike Horn, Hamilton Milroy, Richard Bell, Bill Doheny

Commissioners Absent/Excused: Kevin Burgio, Marigrace Lark, Aris Stalis

1. Review: Minutes of January 30,

Mr. Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2013 meeting. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Continuing Business:

A. Masselli property and other properties of interest/C.I.A. Grants

Dr. Doheny reported that himself, Dr. McManus, Mr. Milroy, Mrs. Milroy, Council Representative Mike Colaiacovo, and Michelle from the DHCA attended a meeting regarding community gardens. Dr. Doheny spoke with Mike Colaiacovo, and they decided before we go any further we need to sit down with Mayor Jackson. They have some idea of cost and want to make sure the Mayor is still in favor. The good news is the State will give CIA grants to the towns through the DEP. There is no limit to the grant and it will be a 65% match. However, the grants are awarded in October and the application procedure is not open yet. He has been assured that we will be contacted and can get in line. Grants include remediation. They can't go ahead now and get the grant retroactively. Depending on Mayor Jackson's reaction, we can get volunteers to help with the work. This year's approach should be minimal, and if it looks like it is going to be successful we can apply for the grant for next year. The grant can also include bringing water to the property. Dr. Doheny called the CT Trust and found out that the grant for the barn is on hold pending an inspection (after the snow melts). Mr. Milroy said the garden at Town Center Park was built in 2008, and the state gave them a grant for \$50,000 for fencing, etc. The DEP has funding for hardscaping. There were questions about soil testing, a frost free hydrant, etc. Dr. McManus also talked to Cordalee Benoir, an affiliate of Yale, and head of the New Haven Community Gardens. She has a power point presentation that she has given many times and said she would be willing to give a presentation on their gardens. Dr. McManus gave her the date of our March meeting and invited her to attend. Mike Colaiacovo suggested that the DHCA be invited to attend. Dr. Doheny felt the presentation would be a good idea. Dr. Doheny spoke to Joe Tollman, the director at Common Ground School, and they have some interest in helping. Dr. Doheny will meet with him next Wednesday. We need able bodies. Peter Vitali also mentioned Q students who will go out into the community.

Dr. Doheny mentioned that Governor Malloy said the CIA grant funds would probably be better used for education.

Mr. Kops had nothing to report on properties of interest. Dr. Doheny reported that the Log Cabin property is dormant. Mr. Kops said everything is dormant. Dr. Doheny said there is a little cloud on the title of the 59 acres on State Street (Gulio Property). The state might be able to get federal fish and wildlife funds. Regarding the four acres +/- at West Rock Ridge – the money that was to be used for that bought some land in Clinton. They might be able to replenish the coffers according to the land acquisition lady at DEP. Mr. Kops mentioned that the Town just received \$400,000 for the all abilities playground at Town Center Park. There was discussion on what might happen to the state and federal grant funds.

The Habitat for Humanity project to restore the farmhouse at Maselli Farm has been finished. It can be seen on the Sleeping Giant Builders.org. The people are living in it. They have not had the dedication yet because of illness in the family and the weather

B. Survey of Town owned properties

Mr. Vitali will have a report next month. He thanked Mr. Kops for the updated regulations. Mr. Kops reported that P&Z is starting to work on the Hamden Plan of Conservation and Development, which has to be completed by the end of 2014. Mr. Vitali has found some information that he feels Commission members should have. This Commission came into existence in 2000. Mr. Vitali also found information on the town and state districts, which have both changed slightly.

C. East Rock polo field – continued vigilance

D. Report from Earth Day Committee Representative

There was no report as Ms. Larke was not in attendance.

Dr. Doheny reported that March 20th will be Parks Day at the Capital. They will have a cake with 100 candles on it, and hopefully Governor Molloy will be there to blow out the candles. There will be displays from all of the parks in the state, and state representatives and state senators will be there. If it is also Agriculture Day, there will be food available.

3. New Business:

Mr. Kops has not approached the subject of Five Lakes Park with the Mayor as yet. It was previously called Pine Swamp, or Olin Pine swamp. Mr. Horn has found the files that were given to him by a whistle blower back in 1995. Mr. Horn has a history starting in 1970, a remedial investigation study dated 12/88, remediation costs, a Consent Order from DEP, and several state Acts that were passed and never went anywhere are also included in the files. Mr. Bell said the Consent Order spells out what has to be done and when. Mr. Bell took that item to review. This is enforceable with a law suit, fine, damages, etc. Mr. Bell had an interesting conversation with Science Park (David Silverstone is the Director) and was very involved with the RWA's remediation of the middle school site.

Attitudes on sites such as this have softened somewhat. They had toxic and atomic waste down there. The Science Park property had many contaminants, but much of the property has been built on. People can live with some of these contaminants. Olin would like to be done with further negotiations in New Haven CT. The Five Lakes property had lead. If anyone wanted to talk to Olin about disposition, uses, etc., of this property, he has the name of the person to contact. Dr. Doheny felt we should talk to Mayor Jackson and Town Attorney Gruen. Mr. Bell said Five Lakes Park is in the RWA watershed. Newhallville goes toward the West River side below the reservoir. Mr. Kops should talk to the Mayor and mention that the consensus of the commission is to look at Five Lakes Park for some passive

remediation. Dr. Doheny said it will be interesting to see who has to do what when, (Curt Richardson is the person to talk to.)

The Commission would like to see the property remediated for passive recreation and encourage the exploration of to what degree of passive recreation the property could be used.

4. Adjournment:

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

Mr. Horn offered condolences to Kevin Burgio, whose mother died suddenly on Monday.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk