

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Peter Vitali, Mike Horn, Bill Doheny, Ham Milroy, Mike McManus, Kevin Burgio, Marigrace Larke

Commissioners Absent: Richard Bell

Others in Attendance: Assistant Town Planner Dan Kops, Meeting Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Review Minutes of March 27, 2013

Mr. Vitali made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27th. Ms. Larke seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor, three abstained.

2. Continuing Business:

Mr. Horn estimated the crowd at Earth Day to be as large as ever. Mr. Horn escorted a bird walk because the person who was scheduled to do it was ill. The NROS presentation was lovely. Mr. Vitali had a big screen presentation of the eagles on State Street.

Mr. Milroy said we got a very high compliment from Pam Roach. The booth drew everyone in and we will have the same location next year. Ms. Larke enjoyed her participation in the planning. She said the event was well received by everyone. Mr. McManus said the beehive was a great idea.

Mr. Vitali's Report

Mr. Horn looked at the report on open space properties and said Mr. Vitali did a fabulous job with it. Mr. Kops has an intern working with the report. Ms. Larke asked about the abbreviations. Dr. Doheny felt the commission should use this report, perhaps take a look at some of these properties and come up with some management ideas. We could have an ongoing input. P&Z can also use this valuable reference, living document. Mr. Vitali said if we notice anything that is incorrectly labeled, please let him know.

Mr. Bell took a copy of Title 52 to look at, but he is absent tonight.

Mr. Horn said Cordalee Benoit was at the last meeting doing a presentation on community gardens. Mr. Milroy and Mr. McManus are associated with community gardens, and had some questions for Ms. Benoit. Dr. Doheny said a meeting was held with the Mayor regarding the community garden project and Mr. Milroy and Dr. McManus were in attendance. Mr. McManus has a lot of connections but there is no money. Mr. Milroy said the focus now rather than just a community garden is to consider the entire property and come up with a plan of action. Mayor Jackson wants to get together with influential people, some outside entities, to come up with a plan for the future. The Mayor will call Dr. Doheny to get the meeting scheduled. Mr. Milroy and Dr. McManus have done a lot of work on this. Michelle Mastropietre and Mike Colaiacovo are also on the committee. There are various grants to be used in various circumstances by different groups of people. Federal funds are available, but not to towns. They would give the grant to the farmer. Ms. Larke received an email from the CT Farmland Trust from someone she met the day she went to Hartford. Dr. Doheny said he believes they did the Massaro farm in Woodbridge.

CT Trust has the money if we fill out the paperwork, to put a roof on the barn on the Masselli property. It would probably require about \$2,500 (35%) from the Town.

One of the community gardens in Norwalk submitted a grant to the CT Department of Health to grow healthy food/vegetables to help prevent obesity. They got a \$350,000 grant!

The people living on the Masselli Farm had an open house. Mayor Jackson attended, and noticed the barn and the debris on the property. Dr. Doheny mentioned at the last meeting that there was some material from demolition being stored in the barn by Urban Miners. Mr. Kops said the material will be removed shortly.

Mr. Vitali mentioned the well on the Masselli property. Dr. Doheny said a DEP grant would provide for clearing and getting water to the site. Mr. Kops relayed to the Mayor's office that the well had to be covered. Dr. Doheny said there are still some 55 gallon drums sitting on the Masselli property. He thought the funds left over from decontaminating the site would be available.

Mr. Kops had nothing to report on properties of interest. Dr. Doheny said the state will not accept a quit claim on the 59 acres on State Street. There are problems with proving ownership. The land trust will probably accept the property. The billboard on the site brings in \$2,000 per year. There is some question on the actual acreage.

3. New Business:

Mr. Horn received an email and cover letter from Mr. Kops asking the commission to review the recommended changes to the zoning regulations regarding the flood plain zone, in order to meet FEMA's new regulations. Mr. Kops explained that FEMA updated its map in December of 2010, and now the map has been updated again. There will be a new FEMA map as of July 8th.

Mr. Horn announced that Aris Stalis has resigned. We need a new corresponding secretary. Mr. Stalis did this for 5-6 years. Mr. Horn would also like someone to take over the chairmanship of the commission. The commission is down three members. Kevin Burgio volunteered to serve as corresponding secretary. Mr. Kops will advise the Mayor's Office that the commission needs three new members.

4. Adjournment:

Dr. Doheny made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk