

MINUTES: The National Resources and Open Space Commission held a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2013 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Bill Doheny, Hamilton Milroy, Richard Bell, Mike McManus, Kevin Burgio, Marigrace Larke, Peter Vitali, Michael Horn

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

Mr. Horn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Review Minutes of June 2013 meeting.

Page 2, 1st paragraph, first line: replace second sentence with "Legislation was introduced at the State level and passed permitting the use of ATV's on certain public land ..."

Page 2, 1st paragraph, last two sentences: A Commissioner said The Bar Association is trying to change the terminology to negligence.

Mr. Doheny made a motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting as corrected. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Old Business

Dr. Doheny reported that the grant submission for barn roof was rejected immediately after submission, even though he and Mayor Jackson received an email advising that the grant be submitted despite the fact that the deadline had passed. It is now being reconsidered.

Dr. Doheny attended a meeting with Julie Smith (Deputy Chief Administrative Officer). Ms. Smith is the designated person to work with on the Masselli Farm. Mr. Milroy was also in attendance, and he reported that the problems and possibilities on the Masselli farm were discussed, but he felt nothing was decided. Ms. Smith was planning to get Mayor Jackson up to speed. Mike Calaiacovo also attended the meeting along with 3-4 members of the Dunbar Hill Civic Association. One of the participants had lots of ideas. Ms. Smith took everyone's email address. She is aware that the commission wants to do a study on the property. She will contact the people in the State Department of Agriculture. Dr. Doheny went out to the property on Monday with George Hindinger. He was impressed at the content of the soil, and agreed we have to get trees removed. He felt that we could get agriculture grants for clearing the land. The well is covered and secure. The 55 gallon drums are still sitting there. Mr. Hindinger emphasized that if Public Works could get out there with the tractor, that needs to be done now, because a year from now it will be much more difficult and we would probably have to spend \$80,000 to clear the land. Ms. Smith said they will have to spray the poison ivy before they can begin the work.

Mr. Horn called for a motion that the Town immediately get out to the Masselli Property with the brush hog. Dr. Doheny so moved. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. It is noted that if we wait longer it will take a small fortune to clear the land. There was further discussion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Dr. Doheny said Mr. Hindinger is a farmer and is into what we do and can give advice. The State Department of Agriculture has a governing board or board of directors, and Mr. Hindinger is the local director.

Bednarzic Property – Mr. Kops had nothing to report. Dr. Doheny spoke to a council representative today and to Julie Smith, and asked the Bednarzic representative to get us a number. He met with DEP again today and can't get us on the list for land acquisition until we get an idea of what he wants for the property.

Other properties of interest – There was nothing to report.

Mr. Horn noted continuing vigilance on the East Rock Polo Field

Mr. Horn said the Commission has continuing interest in the Olin Powder Farm

New Business

Mr. Horn reported that the Hamden eagle chick has fledged. She has left the nest and is being taught to hunt. The formal watch program is over and completed successfully. Mr. Horn asked Mike Lejeune, a Hamden resident and Town employee with deep environmental interest, to submit a letter of interest in joining this commission. With Mr. Milroy leaving, we would be at eight members, and still need three more.

Mr. Horn mentioned that the Hamden Eagles have a Facebook page. He also said that there is a 100% chance of the eagles returning next year because they successfully fledged a chick at this location. Dr. Doheny asked if any of the eagles were banded. Mr. Horn said it seems that the male was banded back in the 90's before the alpha numeric system was used to band birds. His number is 00. Mike has this information third hand.

Adjournment

Dr. Doheny made a motion to adjourn. Dr. McManus seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Milroy for his service and wished him well on his move to Cheshire.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk