

The Natural Resources & Open Space Commission held an informal session on 10-30-13. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Michael McManus, Peter Vitali, Jonathan Richardson, Michael Horn

Commissioners Absent: Bill Doheny (excused), Marigrace Larke, Kevin Burgio, Richard Bell

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

A quorum was not available. An informational session was held to acclimate new commissioner Jonathan Richardson to the commission's business.

Mr. Horn told Mr. Richardson about the Commission's involvement in the Town's purchase of the Maselli Farm. There is a house circa 1888 on the property which was sold to Habitat for Humanity and is now occupied by a family. There is also a barn on the property. The Town is removing the brush around the barn, and part of the barn is salvageable. Mayor Jackson said at his debate last week that he would like to see this property revert to farming. The person who is most familiar with this property is Commissioner Bill Doheny, a retired dentist, and formerly on the Conservation Commission. That Commission was divided into the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Natural Resources and Open Space Commission, and Dr. Doheny then became a member of this Commission.

The Dunbar Hill Civic Association knows what they don't want to see developed on the property, such as a dog pound, etc.

At one point, Mr. Horn heard a rumor that someone was going to try to strip mine gravel on the property. After many hearings before planning & Zoning, we proposed a way out by presenting a proposal, based on agreement with other Commissioners, to purchase the property and put a conservation easement on it.

Brooksvale Estates originally proposed 111 homes on a property, and much of the area was marsh and not buildable. The Regional Water Authority agreed with us because water flowed from the property to the Mill River. The Town purchased that property and swapped it out for land for the Naugatuck State Forest and properties surrounding Brooksvale Park.

Mr. Horn mentioned the "log cabin" site, 54 acres, formerly surrounding by dikes, which were eventually breached,. This property is now a brackish to fully salt water tidal pond. Mr. Horn mentioned the eagles and ospreys that fish there. He thinks at some point, after a survey is done, the Town might own this property.

Mr. Horn brought up the Olin Powder Farm/Five Lakes Park site located behind the Stop & Shop property at Putnam and Dixwell Avenues. There are five ponds on the property, and this parcel used to be a testing and storage facility for gun powder. The property stretches into Newhallville. The Newhallville remediation of residential, parks and school properties will be completed next year, and then hopefully we will be able to see remediation of this area, and a park is really needed in the southern end of Town.

Mr. Horn said we remain vigilant, and told of New Haven's management of East Rock Park, where they have considered a polo arena, so we keep our eyes out for things like that and make our opinions known.

Mr. Horn mentioned the eagles' nest on State Street.

Review Minutes of October 30, 2013
Postponed to November 20, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Kops announced that the Town has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to fix the roof of the barn at Maselli Farm. He also said the Town is in the process of completing a matching grant application to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for a feasibility study of Maselli Farm. If the grant is awarded, the Town would go through the Request for Qualifications process.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk