



TOWN OF HAMDEN

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Craig B. Henrici
Mayor

NATURAL RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Natural Resources & Open Space Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Special Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2009 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Aris Stalis, Tom Parlapiano, Mike Horn, Bill Doheny, Marigrace Lark, Richard Bell, Mike McManus

Commissioners Absent: Gwen Emery (excused), Ted Kennedy

Others in Attendance: Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner
Ron Walters, Regional Water Authority
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk

1. Review Minutes of December 17, 2009

1 correction on Page 2, change Association to Advisory Council

Dr. Doheny made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17th as corrected. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

2. Old Business

Mr. Horn announced that there was a meeting a couple of weeks ago and it should be noted that the new zoning regulations, as part of Chapter 6, 2.8c includes the exclusion of commercial excavation clay and mining. Mr. Horn felt that this was Very well done, and thanks to the Planning Office. Mr. Kops said

they are still working on the regulations and are trying to tighten them up more. Mr. Kops will send a draft once they are complete. Dr. Doheny asked if the Commission should make it clear that when a development goes in they can pay a fee in lieu of open space. Mr. Kops said that is already in the subdivision regulations.

Ron Walters felt there are probably several other issues that this Commission should be looking at. The RWA has issues with the amount of impervious surface and storm water management. Mr. Kops said there will be another version of that. Mr. Walters will get comments to Mr. Kops.

Mr. Horn said at the last meeting we asked Mr. Stalis and Ms. Emery to review the Police Station. Mr. Stalis said he was supposed to meet with Scott Jackson yesterday but postponed the meeting to next week. He is also going to review the Pardee Brook.

The Commission received a letter from the RWA thanking us for our letter recommending the open space grant, which they received.

Mr. Milroy said Earth Day is going to be 4/25 and the Commission has been asked to provide something of interest for display. He brought in a digital picture frame and asked if Mike Horn could put some photographs together of some of our open space areas. Flo McBride will be at the next table and will be showing her Mill River Project.

Mr. Stalis asked if there were any data on the value of open space. He felt we should come up with a summary sheet showing why open space is important to Hamden, so the residents will see a return on their investment. Guilford just voted to spend \$15m to purchase open space. If commissioners brought in data, Mr. Stalis could compile it in one fact sheet and display it. Mike Horn read data on wildlife watching and the value it provides to the Country many areas. It adds up to over \$45 billion in expenditures, more than all other spectator sports combined.

Mr. Kops had nothing new to report on properties. The Town is continuing to move forward, and a survey is being conducted of the Benedict Property by the

Engineering Department. The Stahnke property is thought to be in the Town Attorney's Office.

2nd Hamden Green Award

Dr. Doheny suggested we give our Green Award to the Dunbar Hill Civic Association, because without them we would have 72 houses on the Maselli Farm Property. Commissioners were asked to think about it and discuss it further at the next meeting.

New Business

It has been noted that the stump pile behind the middle school is being moved to the tire pond to be used as fill. Thank you very much Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Horn reminded Commissioners that next month is the annual election for chair, vice chair and corresponding secretary.

Cindy Civitello referred to the new Zoning Regulations and asked about the area where Sleeping Giant golf course is located. Mr. Kops said several special districts are being proposed, and the golf course is one for which specific regulations must be written. She is concerned about if the golf course goes out of business, can a school or a dormitory be built on it.

Gail Traester asked if certain items didn't require public hearings, can the public request a public hearing? Dan said the criteria is that is it something that serves a public purpose. 1500 square feet would require a Site Plan, and above 1500 square feet requires Special Permit.

3. Adjournment

Dr. Doheny made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk