



**TOWN OF HAMDEN**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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*Mayor*

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**MINUTES: The Natural Resources & Open Space Commission held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:**

Commissioners in Attendance: Mike Horn, Ham Milroy, Aris Stalis, Bill Doheny, Marigrace Lark, Ted Kennedy, Richard Bell, Mike McManus, Gwen Emery, Peter Vitali

Others in Attendance: Ron Walters, Technical Advisor, RWA  
Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

Mr. Horn introduced new Commissioner Peter Vitali. Mr. Vitali said he has lived in Hamden for over 40 years. He is a member of the New Haven Bird Club, Connecticut Butterfly Association, Boone & Crocket and Ducks Unlimited.

**Minutes of April 29, 2009 meeting**

**Mr. Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of April 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Mr. Stalis and Mr. Vitali abstained. The vote was eight in favor.**

Mr. Horn said Mr. Parlapiano has resigned from the Commission and the Mayor will appoint Vinnie Lavorgna, who served previously on this Commission.

## Old Business

Mr. Horn mentioned presentation of the Hamden Green Award to the Dunbar Hill Association for the work they did on the Maselli Farm. There will be a picnic in June or July on the property. Mr. Horn said hopefully Public Works will open up some of the trails. Mr. Horn brought up the committee that is looking at various uses of the property. Dr. Doheny said the winery is now out of the picture, as he wanted to build a home on the property in the upper field, and the land is not for sale. The sheep owner is still in the picture, as is the Community Garden Farms, which would be all organic. That user might want to resurrect the greenhouses. We also have someone that wants to do farming with the disabled. A dog pound has also been mentioned. Dr. Doheny said one group might want to rent part of the house. The potential problem with the shepherd is the electric fence, but he said he could put the fence up and just electrify certain parts of it. He is also willing to go in there and do some weed control, both mechanical and chemical. Mr. Vitali googled the property and was concerned about bringing coyotes in. Dr. Doheny said he has a watch donkey to take care of that. Mr. Kops said coyotes are already up there, as are deer and turkeys. Mr. Kops will check to see if sheep are allowed on the property. The sheep owner would sell his sheep to a butcher, in order to avoid the U. S. D. A. regulations. He would fence everything but the field where the greenhouses were. Mike Horn would like to see bluebird boxes at the top of the property. The farm people and the shepherd are willing to do educational events. Restoration of the barn would be a wonderful thing. Mr. Stalis brought up alternative energy. The farms are looking to start next year, but we should let the shepherd know by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The main thing is that nothing that is to go in there that would preclude public use of the land. There is no plan to make money from this property.

## Review of Town Hall/Police Station Project

Mr. Stalis and Ms. Emery reviewed the plans for the Town Hall Renovation/Police Station. Mr. Stalis said that from the perspective of this Commission, not having anything to do with budget or historical issues or architectural issues, the importance is how this will impact the center of Town

from an open space approach. Commissioners reviewed the drawings and made comments.

Mr. Stalis feels there are opportunities to be doing more at the corner to green it up. Innovative best management for storm water should be explored. From the open space perspective, is the parking structure necessary? There seems to be excessive paving at the front of Memorial Town Hall. Can we provide some low impact strategies for storm water there? He would recommend better trees for the roadway providing a canopy on the street. There was discussion on green roofs. Mr. Horn said Steve Winters did the green assessment of the building, but they have been taken off the project.

Mr. Horn thanked Mr. Kops for providing an update and Mr. Stalis and Ms. Emery for their review. This Commission might have an impact on the historic entrance to the front of the Town Hall, how much roof is going to be green, the addition of more vegetated area to the front, storm water strategies, street trees for canopy and cooling the roadways. Bird structures on green roofs were discussed.

Mr. Kops said the Public Hearing is on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Town Hall. Mr. Stalis will prepare a letter to be read into the record. Mr. Kops said the legal notice was in yesterday's paper.

Shanock Property – no news

Benedict Property – Mr. Kops said they are making progress with the survey. There is a problem identifying one of the boundaries.

State Street (Clay Pits) – no news

Stahnke – no news – the Commissioners urged movement on that free land

### **New Business**

Mr. Horn is anxious for Dr. Doheny and the Dunbar Hill Civic Association to come up with a date for the picnic/award ceremony.

### **Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:

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Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk