



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Craig B. Henrici
Mayor

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Ave
Hamden, CT 06518
Tel: (203) 287-7100
Fax: (203) 287-7101

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday June 24, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, 2750 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mike McManus, Mike Horn, Bill Doheny, Hamilton Milroy, Richard Bell, Peter Vitali

Absent: Gwen Emery, Aris Stalis, Marigrace Larke, Ted Kennedy

Others in Attendance: Ron Walters, Regional Water Authority
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk

Mr. Horn called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Bell said he didn't receive last month's meeting minutes – or he accidentally deleted them.

1. Review Minutes of May 27, 2009

On Page 2 of the May minutes, under old business, mid page, Dr. Doheny said he..., change he to the shepherd.

Dr. Doheny made a motion to approve the minutes of May 27th as corrected. Mr. Vitali seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor, Mr. Bell abstained.

2. Old Business:

Town Hall / Police Station - Progress

Mr. Stalis wrote a letter from the Commission expressing its concerns - lack of green space - storm water treatment, street trees, etc., which was read into the record and formally placed in the record. Mr. Horn said the Town Hall/Police Station project was approved at last night's Planning & Zoning Meeting, but he was not sure whether or not the Commission's recommendations were included in the approval.

Maselli Farm

Mr. Horn said he has concerns about the electric fence. Dr. Doheny said the shepherd may activate it only at night. It will encompass about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the property, but it will be in sections, and only the section the sheep are in will be electrified. Mr. McManus said it is still a question as to whether sheep are allowable. Dr. Doheny has not heard anything about sheep not being allowed on the property. Mr. Horn was concerned that with the fence, you can't go

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on the property to hike or bird, so the fence should be done in the right way. Dr. Doheny said tomorrow night the decision will be made as to what will be on the property. Uses will be on a lease basis except if the animal shelter goes there. This group makes the recommendations to the Mayor and then it goes to the Council. The most important recommendation is that none of the land is to be sold, and the other is that we get a conservation easement to the Land Trust on the property. Legislative Council people he has talked to have no problems with that. Council will probably have a public meeting and invite the people to make their recommendations. The farming situations are not looking to go in there until 2010, but the shepherd wants to go in August of this year. There will be a meeting will be at Bill Doheny's house at 7:30 tomorrow evening.

There has been mention of barking dogs at the animal shelter. Dr. Doheny said the building is designed to keep animals indoors and the building is soundproof.

Mr. Kops sent Mr. Horn a memo saying he spoke to the DEP about the Maselli Farm property, and he recommended talking to Richard Kastiniak. Later, if it is appropriate, we might request an environmental review team look at the property.

There was discussion of pesticide use on the property.

Dr. Doheny said the shepherd might be interested in renting the house. He went through the building with Todd Levin, an architectural historian who is preparing a report on the house and the barn. Mr. Levine said grants might be available to fix up the house.

3. New Business

There is no news on the Stanke Property. The owner is willing to give this parcel to the Town, and it is on the Commission's priority list.

At the October 29, 2008 meeting of the Natural Resources and Open Space Commission, Mr. Milroy made a motion that was unanimously approved, to acquire the Stahnke property, which was offered to the Town at no cost. It is a nice piece of property, it is on the Commission's acquisition list, we have a willing donor and can acquire the parcel a no cost, and the donor's future intentions are not ascertainable at this time. The Commission wonders why the Town has not acted, and urges the Town to act with haste. A response would be appreciated. This could be listed as an accomplishment of this administration. A copy of these minutes will be given to the Mayor, Scott Jackson, and Town Attorney Gruen.

Mr. Horn requested that this Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission share meeting minutes. He has been receiving minutes of the Inland Wetland Commission, and Ms. Rosenbaum, Commission chair, has been receiving this Commission's minutes.

Peter Vitali asked if the Commission knows how many acres of open space we have in Hamden. Mr. Horn replied that we have over 6,000 acres, over 4,000 true open space. The 6000 total includes golf courses, public schools, and parks. This was the total in 2002.

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Mr. Vitali asked if this Commission has a goal of how much open space they want to see in the Town as open space. Mr. Horn said we don't have a percentage goal. We now have more open space as a percentage than most other towns in the area.

Mr. Vitali would like a copy of the Commission's priority list. The Commission would also like a copy of the open space and park inventory, which we can probably get from Mr. Kops, and a list of Town owned open space, which we can probably get from the Assessor's Office. Every property in Town can be viewed through the Town's website via the GIS system.

Hamden Green Award – A picnic will be held on the Maselli Farm property in September after Labor Day, at which time the Green Award will be presented.

4. Adjournment:

Mr. McManus made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk