



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*Scott D.  
Jackson*  
Mayor

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MINUTES: The Natural Resources & Open Space Commission held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mr. Horn, Dr. Doheny, Mr. Milroy, Mr. McManus, Mr. Stalis, Mr. Bell

Guests: Mr. Camenga (Potential Commission member), Ms. Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Campo

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

Mr. Horn called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

### **Minutes of October 28, 2009**

**Mr. Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2009 meeting. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor, one abstained (Mr. Stalis)**

### **Review Informal Notes of November 28, 2009**

The November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was informal because a quorum was not available. The notes were accepted as presented.

Mayor Jackson was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Commission invites Mayor Jackson to attend its January meeting, or any future meeting, so we can tell him what we have done and ask about open space priorities for the new administration.

### **Old Business**

#### **Properties of Interest**

Mr. Kops had no news on these properties, except that the Benedict property can be removed from the list because it is now owned by the Town and has two conservation easements on it. Mr. Horn presented some history on the property, and said it almost became a strip mine.

#### **Stahnke Property**

Dr. Doheny discussed the Stahnke property with Mayor Jackson on Friday. It was all set to go before the Council but the Town Attorney found some problem. It may have been because of the lack of an adequate survey.

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#### Clay Pit

This property is in the hands of Attorney Ginsberg, who has part ownership of the Clay Pit. They had an idea of reopening it, but Mr. Kops said Inland Wetlands turned it down in the 90's.

Five Lakes Park – no news

#### Maselli Farm

Commissioners told Mr. Stalis that every point in his memorandum on the dog pound pointed to the D'Addio Farm Lot 4 as the preferred location.

There was discussion on the perceived problems with dog pounds. Mr. Stalis said there is no problem with noise in modern dog pounds. He spoke about a dog pound in Fairfield located in a residential area that just fits in fine. Mr. McManus felt Mr. Stalis' information was excellent. There was discussion as to whether the funds are in place.

Dr. Doheny reported that the conservation easement for the Maselli Farm is now in the Town Attorney's Office, and comments should be back tomorrow. The two acres for Town use is not in the conservation easement. The conservation easement as it stands now would preclude the animal shelter. The plan is to get the comments back from the Town Attorney's Office and then pass it back to Linda Francois, who did current draft, and any changes would go through her again. The Mayor has all of the proposals for farming so he can read through them. Dr. Doheny didn't have a copy of the one for haying. We would like to make a decision by February, because farmers start their plants in February. Two of the new Council leadership are in favor of this project. Mr. Bell would like to see the easement for the Maselli property. The easement is between the Town and the Land Trust. Mr. Doheny said this commission would see the final copy once it is done.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Horn went to the Planning and Zoning meeting on the zone change hearings, which were approved. He said the Plan of Development had a little map of Whitney Avenue showing trolley tracks in the right of way. Mr. Kops said those were illustrative conceptual plans and were approved by the people who attended the charrette. The road is a state road, not a town road.

Dr. Doheny mentioned that because of the State's financial difficulties, there is the possibility that it will sell off some of its assets. The commission is concerned about a vacant house on State property.

Sarah Clark asked about the proposals for the Masselli property. Dr. Doheny responded that one is community supported agriculture (CSA) and another is for a disabled/disadvantaged community garden. Each of those would use two or three acres. A commercial farmer with an existing farm in Hamden is asking for the use of 20 acres. A Yale graduate student has a flock of sheep he would like to graze on the property. Dr. Doheny said the sheep are now located in

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Southington, and the shepherd is having some difficulty with the commute between Yale and Southington. He would use moveable electric fences. He had a guard donkey, which died.

Mrs. Campo, new District 9 Council Representative said she is an Olin retiree and is familiar with Five Lakes Park. She and her husband own Lot 2 Daddio Farm adjacent to the trail and behind the lot designated for the fire station. Mrs. Campo agrees that it is a good place for the animal shelter. Mrs. Campo said Olin Corporation has pretty much left Connecticut. They do have a strip mall office in Norwalk. Mr. Horn mentioned the designation of passive recreation for Olin, and the different levels of remediation required for different uses.

Dr. Doheny said West Rock Ridge State Park is in the process of purchasing 12 more acres.

Reminder: Mr. Milroy's term on the Commission is coming up and he needs to send a request and a resume for reappointment.

Mr. Bell will be appointed to Planning & Zoning, and if that is approved he will resign from NROS.

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

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Meeting Clerk