



# 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, October 28, 2009. The following issues were discussed:

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Marigrace Larke, Peter Vitali, Mike Horn, Bill Doheny, Hamilton Milroy, Richard Bell, Ted Kennedy

**Others in Attendance:** Bill Burns, Dunbar Hill Civic Association, Gail Traester, Sarah Clarke, and Cindy Civitello, Dan Kops, Assistant Town Planner, Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Horn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### **Minutes of September Meeting**

Correct Page 3 to read that Mr. Jackson would get input from the various neighborhood groups as to the location of the animal shelter.

**Dr. Doheny made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting as amended. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

## **Old Business**

### **Stahnke Property**

The Stahnkes made a tentative offer to donate the property to the Town in October of last year. The Mayor has responded and is waiting for the Stahnkes to get back to him.

### **Benedict Property (gravel pit)**

The Benedict property was before the Legislative Council Monday night and the purchase has been approved. The closing took place today. Mr. Horn said when the deed gets transferred there will be a lot of happy people. Bill Doheny said we should come to a decision as to what will happen to the property. Mr. Kops said the land is being protected by two conservation easements.

### **Clay Pit**

No news

### **Five Lakes Park – Olin**

No news

### **Maselli Property**

The only proposals for this property are farming (CSA), a non-profit community garden for disabled/disadvantaged, and a commercial farmer. The Land Trust has reviewed a boiler plate conservation easement and will get a copy back to the committee, at which time they will review and send it on to the Mayor's Office.

## **New Business**

Nancy Rosenbaum, chair of the Inland Wetlands Commission asked Mr. Horn if he realized that the Yale property located below the Maselli property is a wetland. She suggested the commission take a look at the property. Mr. Kops said agriculture is exempt from a wetlands permit.

### **2010 Meeting Schedule**

Commissioners were asked to review next year's meeting schedule and comment at the next meeting.

Mr. Kops said the hearing for new Zoning Regulations is actually November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Middle School Auditorium.

### **Animal Shelter Location**

Aris Stalis sent the Commissioners an email that addressed commissioner concerns about noise, smells, etc. at an animal shelter. He has been involved with a shelter in Stratford, and said outdoor runs only have one dog outside at a time. Shelters are built so no noise and/or smells escape to the outside. He recommended that the shelter be located in a high traffic area accessible to people seeking to adopt a pet.

There are three properties under review, Maselli, Dadio and an area near the Wilbur Cross known as the Yale property. Dr. Doheny asked if there is enough land at the Dadio for the animal shelter. Mr. Kops said there would be. The Dadio property is on the south side of Putnam Avenue and abuts the old railroad tracks. There are four lots there: a 2.7 acre lot and a 2.6 acre lot have been sold; lot one is 3.4 acres and the proposed use for that is a firehouse. The remaining parcel is 2.3 acres.

Maselli Farm has neighbors all around and it is really out of the way. Dr. Doheny said Lot 4 at Dadio Farm hits all of the points that Mr. Stalis mentioned in his letter. The animal shelter committee is suggesting a 6,000 square foot building on a two acre lot. Mr. Horn asked for a motion regarding a recommendation for the location of an animal shelter.

**Mr. Vitali moved that this Commission recommend Lot 4 of the Dadio Farm property for the animal shelter. Ted Kennedy seconded the motion, The vote was five in favor, one opposed (Ms. Larke) and one abstention (Dr. Doheny).**

Mr. Bell said this motion is only a choice between two properties, but should a better alternative turn up, the Commission could change its mind. Commissioners agreed.

Guests Gail Traester, Gail Clarke and Cindy Civitello were interested in the status of the Benedict Property.

Another guest asked about any other properties available for the animal shelter. Nothing else is Town owned. Mr. Kops said there are no other Town owned parcels. She also asked about the commercial farming that might go on the Maselli property. Dr. Doheny said Mr. DeMatteo who owns a farm down the street might be interested in farming 15 acres. An easement is being worked on by the Farmlands Alliance regarding proper farm management.

Mr. Horn is interested in haying after August to preserve bird and animal habitat until they have fledged.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Doheny made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Milroy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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