



TOWN OF HAMDEN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

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

NATURAL RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

MINUTES: The Natural Resources & Open Space Commission held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

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

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Stalis (excused), Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Larke

Also in Attendance: Prospective member Mr. Camenga
Commission Clerk Tobin

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

Review Minutes of December 16, 2009

Corrections: Page 2, Maselli Farm 2nd paragraph second line, change Fairfield to Stratford: Page 3, first two lines, change Southington to Southbury; Page 3, 2nd paragraph, 5th line, insert before strip mall "an office in"

Mr. Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16th as amended. Mr. Vitali seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Old Business

Mr. Horn mentioned that he invited the Mayor to our meeting, but he is at the traffic calming meeting this evening. Mr. Kops is also at the traffic calming meeting.

Dr. Doheny mentioned that the easement for the Maselli farm is on the back burner. Three farmers were interviewed on Saturday. It seems that they are all able to work together and are ready to go. There was an article in the paper regarding the availability of space on the farm and a public hearing was held, but that procedure might not be adequate and fair to all. A bid waiver

in favor of an RFP will be published to give everyone a chance to present their proposals. The lease arrangements have to be worked out, and the amount of insurance tenants have to carry has to be worked out. The CSA, Commercial Farmer and the 501c3 person are still interested. Mr. Horn is still concerned about the hay person. The federal people in Wallingford gave Mr. Horn guidelines as to when you can hay without harming wildlife. August 1st was the date given. Birds and/or critters should be fledged by the end of July.

Stahnke – this item was pulled from the Legislative Council, and Mr. Horn is not sure why. Dr. Doheny said perhaps the reason is the lack of a survey.

There were no updates on the Benedict, Clay Pit, and Five Lakes Park properties.

New Business:

Mr. Horn attended a recent environmental meeting concerning the Mill and Quinnipiac Rivers at the Whitney Water Center. The next meeting is on February 2 7:00 p.m. at the Whitney Water Center. Mr. Bell mentioned the controversy about the Mill River Watershed several years ago, and said this meeting is regarding that issue.

Mr. Horn mentioned that the State of Connecticut was going to put through new river classifications adding one that would abandon rivers that are considered not salvageable. He went to the public information meeting. Part of the Class 4 designation can be construed to abandon some water courses that are not salvageable. There is some opposition to the Class 4 designation. Ms. Mushinski feels it would be a good idea to revise Class 4 because of a bad history or a the location of a river in a concrete channel. The Commission will be informed of any changes. The Park River is one of the rivers named. Mr. Bell said Class 4 is a red herring. Parts of the Quinnipiac River were discussed, and Class 4 could apply to parts of a river, not just a whole river. Mr. Bell said there are four classifications of water/streams. DEP must put in regulations to support the Legislation. The RWA's interest is only to provide safe drinking water to the public. The DUPC, the Department of Health, and the DEP (dams, fish, etc.) are three fiefdoms all going in different directions.

Three of the largest rivers in the state are not available for the use of drinking water because they receive sewage, because of a Department of Health rule. Connecticut is the only state in the union that regulates this way. Water can be purified of almost anything including sewage, for drinking water purposes.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the regulations.

Mr. Horn asked Mr. Bell if he could write up some of the comments he presented, suggesting one body of regulators instead of three, and allowing the use of water from the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers. Mr. Bell said this hearing is about stream flow regulations. RWA has its own regulatory authority. Commissioners agreed that this subject is appropriate for discussion by this Commission.

Mr. Vitali asked how the DEP could get involved with a Department of Health ruling. Mr. Bell said the DEP can't do anything about this at this point. The consolidation of powers would be ideal.

Mr. Bell said an analogy today is the banking industry, which falls under several different regulatory committees. Stream flow regulations are only addressing a small part of the problem.

Mr. Milroy said he didn't realize the problem of getting drinking water in the state of CT, and believes 90% of Connecticut residents are also unaware. Mr. Bell said RWA is a wholesaler, selling to Aquarion and CT Water.

Mr. Horn said it is time to start planning for the Commission's exhibit for the Earth Day celebration, which will be held on April 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Milroy felt the slide show last year was a big hit and even got more attention than the bird photos at the next table.

Mr. Vitali suggested a display on ponds/water. Mr. Camenga suggested invasive species, soils and water. Mr. McManus suggested a presentation on the Maselli Farm. The problems there are gross erosion, invasive species, and contaminated soil. Mr. Horn needs more help at the table this year. He is sponsoring Wind Over Wings from his mother's estate. Dr. Mel will be in attendance.

Mr. Horn will check with Ron Walters regarding a large Google Earth map of the Maselli Farm. Mr. Vitali suggested overlay's of other properties, such as the Daddio Farm.

Mr. Bell is interested in the invasive species, i.e. the Asian long horned beetle. Mr. McManus presented information on the location of that beetle, none of which were in Connecticut.

Adjournment:

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