

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT CONSIDERED OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE ROXBURY INLAND
WETLANDS COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

THE ROXBURY INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

MINUTES Special Meeting June 24, 2009

Members Present: Ms. Napier, Ms. O'Conner
Members Absent: Mr. Dirienzo, Mr. Horrigan, Mr. Ketchum.
Alternates Present: Ms. Fitch, Mr. Smoliga
Others present: Mr. Kellerman; Julie Steers and Jamie Curren of the Roxbury Land Trust; Don Mysling of the DEP's department of fisheries; Bob Perrella and Larry Wolff of Trout Unlimited, Pomperaug chapter

Acting Chairman Ms. Napier called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. at the Tierney Preserve off Squire Road in Roxbury.

SEATING OF MEMBERS: Ms. Napier seated members O'Conner, Fitch, Smoliga, and Napier.

BUSINESS: Proposal by Trout Unlimited, under the direction of the DEP, to construct logjams in Jack's Brook for purposes of fish habitat enhancement and streambank restoration.

Mr. Perrella explained that the Pomperaug chapter of Trout Unlimited had obtained a \$7,500 grant to promote habitat enhancement and streambank conservation and restoration. The organization has developed a plan to construct logjams at several points along the banks of Jacks Brook in the Roxbury Land Trust's Tierney Preserve. The ultimate aim of the project is not only to stabilize the streambanks and control erosion but also to enhance trout habitats in the brook.

Mr. Mysling said that the DEP was first contacted about the Jacks Brook project in 2005. The DEP studied fish populations and explored erosion control and habitat enhancement measures along a stretch of the brook beginning at the footbridge and extending upstream almost to the waterfall. Problem areas along the brook were identified and have been monitored in the intervening years, he said.

Mr. Mysling noted that artificially constructed logjams are relatively recent in Connecticut but have been used in rivers in Washington and Oregon for some 30 years. He showed Commissioners photos of both natural and constructed logjams in other streams. No difference could be detected.

Mr. Mysling explained how artificial logjams are constructed and established in streams. The logjams consist of natural wood materials found on site, which are held in place by means of cables sunk into the streambank. The logjams that are planned for Jacks Brook will extend both above and below the surface of the water and will be attached to one side and parallel to the streambank. They will prevent further erosion and at the same time provide protected areas in which fish can hide and reproduce. Over time, the logjams will collect silt and other materials, eventually enabling vegetation to grow on top, thus renewing the streambanks.

Since the Land Trust owns only one side of the streambank, access to do the work may be a problem. The logjams may have to be put in place largely by hand. If neighboring property owners agree, a small, Kubota-sized vehicle might be allowed access on the private side of the brook.

Commissioners walked the brook with the Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, and DEP officials to view proposed sites for the logjams. Ms. Napier suggested it might be a good idea to try one logjam, constructed at the most important site, to see how it works before proceeding with the rest.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., by Ms. Napier, seconded by Ms. O'Conner, and passed 4-0.

By: Patricia T. O'Conner