



TOWN OF ROXBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of Roxbury
Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Meeting held on 8/12/09

Attendees:

Members:	Present	Absent	Seated for
Gary Steinman, Chairman	X		
Trudy Swenson, Vice Chair	X		
Cathy Masi, Secretary	X		
Hugh Rawson	X		
Mary van Riper	X		
Cecelia Santillo (A)	X		
David Wolfe (A)		X	
Erika Ketchum (A)	X		

Public Attendees: none

Call to order at 7:06 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting held on July 8, 2009 were approved as written.

Correspondence:

Gary Steinman is in receipt of the agendas and minutes of the other commissions.

At the most recent Zoning Commission the special application for a bed and breakfast and hot dog stand at 160 Baker Road was considered. There will be a public hearing.

At the Inland Wetlands meeting, an action for enforcement regarding 6 Baker Road was determined.

Chair's Report:

Conservation Commission members and volunteers are invited to attend the Shepaug River Celebration picnic to be held on September 12th from 12 to 2 at Steep Rock. The discussion of protecting the endangered Eastern Box Turtle by marking its habitat on the state map of endangered and rare species will be discussed at the September meeting. A combined meeting of the land use commissions will be held Monday, August 17th at town hall to discuss whether Planning and Zoning should be combined and whether Zoning Commission members should be elected or appointed. The Conservation Commission will be discussing policy issues raised by the application for 160 Baker Road. Discussion of the trail system has been postponed. Gary Steinman has had communications with the Roxbury Land Trust regarding collaboration in developing new trails. Trudy Swenson has volunteered to help Gary and Hugh Rawson with Trails. Commission members will be discussing cell tower applications. The Board of Selectmen has requested the Conservation Commission set about educating townspeople as to the benefits of the "Freedom Lawn", a program initiated in Milford, CT to educate people in the natural way to care for their property and to be made aware of the risks associated with pesticides. For more information go to www.green-ct.org.

Cell Towers:

After much discussion, the Commission members agreed that the Commission would like to be informed of all cell tower applications at the same time the applications are presented to the Zoning Commission and to have the ability to weigh-in on some of the applications. This request was prompted by the two applications at 316 Perkins Road in Southbury near the Roxbury town line and the future Transylvania Road site. An informational letter might possibly be sent by the Conservation Commission to the Connecticut Siting Council should further research suggest an endangered species would be affected by a potential cell tower location.

Trails:

Gary Steinman reported the Commission on Aging is supportive of the Conservation Commission's efforts in establishing a trail from the Senior Center to Hurlburt Park.

Planning and Zoning Commissions:

Commission members agreed the Planning and Zoning Commissions should remain as separate entities for the benefit of both functions.

Policy Issues raised by the Application regarding 160 Baker Road:

Hugh Rawson will be working on a draft outlining the Commission's view of a multi-phase development. Multi-stage applications with only the beginning phases submitted should be considered incomplete as the entire impact of the project cannot be determined

Freedom Lawn:

A committee was formed to begin the process of educating the public concerning the benefits of organic/natural grounds care and the short term/long term risks of using chemicals and pesticides. Committee members are Mary van Riper, Cecelia Santillo, Erika Ketchum and Cathy Masi.

Annual Report:

Gary Steinman presented a draft of the annual report to the Commission for their review which will be discussed at the September meeting.

The next Commission meeting date is September 9, 2009

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Masi, Secretary

Note: The above minutes are not official until approved by the Commission members at the next meeting.