

May 1, 2013

5:00 p.m., Land Use Mtg. Room

Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Ann Quackenbos, Alt.

Absent: Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt, Dirk Sabin, Alt.

Staff Present: Shelley White

5:10 pm

Ms. Payne, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Ann Quackenbos, Alt.

Consideration of the Minutes

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for April 3, 2013.

Motion:

to accept the April 3, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended,

by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Frank, passed by 4-0 vote.

Referrals/New Projects

The Gunnery Soccer Field Renovation:

The Commissioners reviewed the Gunnery Soccer Field Renovation Site Plan and discussed the irrigation plan. Mr. Bernard recalled that this system was put in approximately 10 years ago and it was an enormous project. He expressed concern that it is need of renovations.

Ms. Payne suggested that the Commission draft a letter expressing their concerns and requesting upstream and downstream tests of the water in Kirby Brook. Mr. Bernard volunteered to test the water.

The Commission briefly looked at the Town of Washington Water Resource Map (December 1999).

Zoning Regulations Review:

Ms. Payne stated that Mr. Sabin is working on revision of the regulations pertaining to viewscape development, clear cutting of trees and ridgeline protection.

The Commission discussed the information that they received from Mr. McGuiness regarding stonewall protection and noise control. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that a noise ordinance would be difficult to enforce. The Commissioners agreed that they would continue to educate the town residents about stonewalls and streamside buffering on the Town of Washington Conservation Commission website.

Ms. Payne reminded the Commissioners that Mr. Fitzherbert, Zoning Commission Chairman, asked that the CC prioritize the regulations that they are interested in revising and bring a written proposal to the Zoning Commission.

Ms. Payne suggested that the Commissioners review sections of the zoning regulations that relate to conservation.

Cell Tower Update:

There have been no further developments regarding the proposed cell tower at 10 Blackville Road and no new applications have been submitted.

Other Business

New Preston Open Space:

Ms. Payne informed the Commissioners that the dumpster has been removed from the property. She spoke with the First Selectman and he would like to put the New Preston Open Space on a regular mowing and brush hog schedule.

Ms. Payne stated that she would be meeting with Ms. Corrigan on May 7th at the New Preston Open Space to do some fieldwork.

Mr. Bernard informed the Commission that a neighbor has offered to head the New Preston Open Space Stewardship Committee but has some questions for the Conservation Commission before proceeding.

The Commission discussed marking the boundaries of the property and Ms. Payne suggested that they look at the subdivision map that was proposed for the property years ago.

Knotweed Eradication:

The Knotweed eradication treatments are working at the WPS property, New Preston Open Space and New Preston Falls and the plan is to keep on top of the treatments to control any further growth.

Budget:

Ms. Payne stated that there would be no allocation for Open Space in this year's budget and that the \$6,000.00 has been approved for the Conservation Commission. She informed the Commissioners that there would be a Town Budget Hearing tomorrow.

Miscellaneous:

- The Commission discussed updating the resource maps. They reviewed the maps that from the Town of Kent. The Commissioners agreed that having street names on these resource maps would be very helpful. Ms. Frank stated that she would contact the mapmaker at HVA and place an order. Ms. Payne requested that a full size draft be available for review before any final copies are printed.

Adjournment

Motion:
to adjourn by Mr. Bernard, seconded by Ms. Frank.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk