

June 4, 2013

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

Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Phil Markert, Betsy Corrigan, Alt, Dirk Sabin, Alt.

Absent: Diane Dupuis, Ann Quackenbos, Alt.

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others:

5:10 pm

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

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Phil Markert, Betsy Corrigan, Alt.

Consideration of the Minutes

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for May 1, 2013.

Corrections:

Page 1: under Referrals/New Projects, The Gunnery Field Renovation: 1st paragraph delete "and discussed the irrigation plan"

Motion:

to accept the May 1, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended,

by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Markert, passed by 5-0 vote.

POCD

Ms. Payne stated that the Planning Consultants, Milone & MacBroom would be submitting a draft of the POCD by June 30th and Ms. Gager would pass it along to the Conservation Commission for review.

Referrals/New Projects

Myfield, LLC:

The Commissioners looked at the Site Plan titled Property/Boundary Survey, prepared for Myfield LLC, dated January 2005, by T. Michael Alex, Licensed Land Surveyor. It was the consensus of the Commission that the eased area would not be disturbed by the development and Ms. Payne would compose and send a "blanket letter" stating that as long as the development is consistent with the Property/Boundary Survey the Conservation Commission approves the plan and requests that Myfield LLC inform the CC when the units are being built.

Gunn Hill Easement:

The Commissioners looked at the Landscape Proposal for: 65 Gunn Hill Road.

There was a brief discussion regarding the topography of the property.

Mr. Sabin and Ms. Corrigan feel that it would be helpful to have the Latin names for the plantings. Ms. Corrigan stated that she would email Ms. Payne with her concerns regarding some of the plantings.

110 Calhoun Street:

The owners of 110 Calhoun Street are putting in a sports court behind their barn. Ms. Payne stated that she does not believe it is near the Conservation Easement but would visit the site to confirm.

Other Business

Knotweed Eradication:

Ms. Payne informed the Commission that there was an article in Voices regarding the Knotweed eradication along the Riverwalk at WPS. She stated that some property owners from across the river were not happy with the treatments and are concerned that the riverbank would wash away. Ms. Payne stated that part of the long-term plan is to plant something in place of the knotweed but meanwhile the root systems are still in the ground and prevent erosion..

There was a brief discussion regarding appropriate plantings for the riverbank.

The Commissioners agreed that continued management of this invasive plant is necessary.

New Preston Open Space:

Ms. Payne stated that they are still seeking someone to take a leadership role for a stewardship committee for the New Preston Open Space. She stated that she and Ms. Corrigan walked the property on May 7th.

Ms. Corrigan stated that she is not sure about the proposed trail because it goes through some botanically diverse areas.

Mr. Bernard responded that he does not feel that there would be very much traffic on the trail.

Ms. Corrigan discussed the plants that she identified on the property. She stated that she feels that long-term maintenance of the invasive plants would be necessary. She suggested that the work should start with maintaining the habitat areas and then branch out from those locations.

Ms. Payne suggested getting a map of the New Preston Open Space by HVA.

The Commissioners discussed what the map should include.

Ms. Payne suggested that the next Conservation Commission Meeting should be at the New Preston Open Space site.

The Town of Washington Conservation Commission will meet July 10, 2013 at the New Preston Open Space property.

The Commissioners revisited the discussion regarding a map of the property and what it should contain. They agreed that a working map would be useful in establishing a plan for the property and

a plan is necessary before establishing a stewardship committee.

Greenway Committee:

Ms. Payne stated that the committee has not been active and she would like to dissolve the Greenway Committee if the Conservation Commission is in agreement.

Motion:

to dissolve the Greenway Committee for the Town of Washington, Ct,
by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Sabin, unanimously approved.

Watercourses/Waterways

Mr. Bernard explained the Waterbury Water Company's compliance with the legal agreement that the Town of Washington is a party to. He stated that the parties have the right to check on compliance and get the records from the WWC and analyze that data. Edwin Mathews of the Shepaug River Association shared the report with Mr. Bernard. Mr. Bernard informed the CC of the conclusions from this report.

Mr. Bernard stated that the Town spent a great deal of money to obtain this agreement and feels that it is in the Town's best interest to study this data and monitor the Waterbury Water Company's compliance.

The Commissioners agreed that this was under the Conservation Commission's purview. Mr. Markert suggested that the subject be brought to the Board of Selectman to request that a line item in the Conservation Commission's budget for the hydrologist report.

It was the consensus of the Commission that they would like to request a line item for this report in the 2014-2015 budget.

The Commission looked at the Water Resources Map, Town of Washington, CT, created by HVA, and dated June 4, 2013. There was a discussion regarding enhancements to the map.

Zoning Regulations Review

Mr. Sabin gave a brief synopsis on the draft he composed to preserve ridgelines and requested that the other commissioners review the draft and provide feedback.

Adjournment

Motion:

to adjourn by Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk