

October 2, 2013

5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt., Ann Quackenbos, Alt.

Absent: Dirk Sabin, Alt.

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others: Press

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

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis

Consideration of the Minutes

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for September 4, 2013.

Motion:

to accept the September 4, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted,

by MS. Frank, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed by 5-0 vote.

Cell Tower Update

Ms. Payne reported that the application has been submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council. and the Town awaits notice of a public hearing and balloon float.

Motion:

to approve the Board of Selectmen waiving the 90 day review period for the cell tower lease at the Town Garage Site,

by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Bernard, by 5-0 vote.

Amending Open Space Ordinance

The Conservation Commission discussed the possibility of being able to amend the Open Space Ordinance.

Ms. Payne stated that First Selectman Lyon advised that the Conservation Commission could contact Atty. Fisher to discuss the possibility of amending the ordinance. She noted that if they do amend the ordinance it would have to be voted on by the Town.

Mr. Markert stated that the Town is changing and it is logical to amend the ordinance. He urges people to consider how the Town is evolving and how it relates to conservation.

The commissioners briefly discussed 1 Green Hill Circle.

Ms. Dupuis suggested that the Commission proceed with caution in considering amending the Open Space Ordinance.

The commissioners discussed the future of the Open Space Fund and how it relates to the future growth of the Town of Washington.

Ms. Payne stated that she would talk to counsel.

Other Business

Conservation Easements:

Ms. Payne talked with Mr. Pleasant, Design Consultant for the former Nussbaum property, now owned by Pillow. He informed her that the property is going to be surveyed and pinned or marked.

Ms. Payne distributed the Washington Conservation Commission Easement Guidelines and asked that the commissioners review it and provide feedback.

There was a brief discussion regarding stewardship fees.

New Preston Open Space:

Ms. Payne stated that she visited the New Preston Open Space and the knotweed is under control. She noted that she would speak to the First Selectman about the gravel and drainage at that still needs to be done.

Mr. Bernard suggested using social media to make residents aware of NPOS. Ms. White volunteered to look into a page on Facebook.

The commissioners discussed social media as a means of educating residents.

The commissioners discussed the prevalence of Autumn Olive on the property and setting work dates. Ms. Corrigan discussed the process that should be followed to eradicate the species.

Ms. Corrigan stated that she sprayed the Goutweed at the New Preston Open Space about five weeks ago.

Zoning Regulation Recommendations:

Ms. Payne recommended that the Conservation Commission revisit Mr. Sabin's work on viewscape development/clear cutting trees so that they could submit a recommendation to the Zoning Commission.

Knotweed Eradication:

Ms. Payne stated that the knotweed on the island at New Preston Falls needs to be treated and the work at WPS needs to be continued.

Water Resources Map:

Ms. Corrigan is working on adding the vernal pools, headwaters and stream sources to the map.

The commissioners looked at some of the changes that Ms. Corrigan made to the Water Resources Map.

There was a brief discussion regarding updating the maps annually.

Miscellaneous:

Ms. Payne emphasized that the Conservation Commission needs to keep on the Town to clean up the Old Town Garage site. There are still materials being stockpiled there.

Ms. Payne informed the commissioners that there was a judgment issued in favor of The Gunnery School regarding the playing fields on South Street.

It was noted that there is a Rivers Alliance exhibition at the Washington Art Association.

Ms. Payne informed the commissioners that CACIWC would hold its 36th Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference, Saturday, November 16, 2013 and additional details could be found at www.caciwc.org.

Ms. Corrigan stated that she has been working with property owners along Route 109 to get rid of the Porcelain Berry.

Adjournment

Motion:

to adjourn at 6:10 by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Bernard.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting.

Submitted subject to approval,
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk