

May 2, 2012

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

Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Phil Markert, Phil Dutton, Randy Bernard, Alt., Ann Quachenbos, Alt.

Absent: Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others: Press

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

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

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the April 4, 2012 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the April 4, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted,

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

Referrals and New Projects

The Gunnery Playing Fields- South Street:

Ms. Payne stated that she submitted a letter from the Conservation Commission to the Zoning Commission stating the position of the CC on the proposed Gunnery athletic fields on South Street. She stated that a Special Meeting has been scheduled to for the Town of Washington Zoning Commission on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 7:30 in the Land Use Meeting Room at Bryan Memorial Town Hall to continue the Public Hearing for The Gunnery Athletic Fields. There was a brief discussion regarding how helpful a scaled model would be.

132 Calhoun Street Conservation Easement:

Ms. White informed the Conservation Commission that Mr. Charles called and stated that he has not placed the monuments on this property but he would let them know when it was done so they could schedule a site visit.

Ms. Payne stated Conservation Commission would wait until their next regular meeting to discuss the easement with Mr. Charles, that she reviewed the stewardship plan and has some questions for Mr. Charles.

Ms. Frank stated that it would be helpful to have a list of the I.R.S. requirements for the voluntary easement files.

Ms. Payne stated that she looked at the baseline report and felt that it along with the stewardship

plan does seem to have all the information on the property that is needed.

Cell Tower Update

There is no new information regarding Cell Towers.

Ms. Payne stated that Bill 447, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws, was defeated and that proposed cell tower sites would continued to be evaluated by DEEP on a case by case basis.

Decommissioning of Streetlights

Mr. Dutton stated that he met with Trooper Sordi who created a spreadsheet, which indicates the location of all of the streetlights in Town that are working and not working. He stated that Trooper Sordi recommended finding out why the lights were put in the locations in the first place and that the Town would possibly have an engineering study report with this information. Mr. Dutton stated that Trooper Sordi would not be able to make recommendations of which lights to decommission but the Conservation Commission could and it would have to be reviewed by the Stated Police and the other entity(s) that deals with safety issues.

The Commission discussed how the Town pays a flat fee for the lights whether they are working or not. It was the consensus of the Commission that they would ask Trooper Sordi to do another monitoring in a months time to see if any of the non-working lights have been fixed and report the findings to the Selectman's Office.

Mr. Dutton submitted a survey of the streetlight inventory done by Mr. Solley in 2010.

2012-2013 Budget

Ms. Payne stated that she met with the Board of Selectmen and asked for a \$10,000.00 budget for the Conservation Commission. She stated that they have not made a decision yet and none of the Town commissions renewed their membership with the Connecticut Northwest Conservation District. Ms. Payne stated that she added the line item for the eradication of knotweed.

The Commission discussed the Open Space Fund and whether a percentage of these funds could be used for maintenance. Ms. Payne asked the Commissioners if they should consider a revision of the ordinance to allow for some funds for maintenance of the Town owned open space. It was the consensus of the Commission that a revision did not need to be done. The Commissioners discussed stewardship donations for future easements and preservation costs in relation to the size of the easement. Ms. Payne stated that she would talk with the First Selectman and confirm with Town Counsel regarding this use of the Open Space Funds.

Conservation Commission Goals for 2012

Mr. Markert stated that he feels strongly that the Planning, Zoning and Conservation Commission

should have joint involvement in revising the Zoning Regulations. He stated that representatives from each commission could meet with a hired professional.

There was a brief discussion regarding storm water management.

The Commission agreed that they should come up with 3- 4 goals. Ms. Payne suggested that everyone come up with 3-4 goals by the June Meeting. Mr. Markert volunteered to summarize all of the goals and pull them all together.

Other Business

Ms. Payne announced that Mr. Dutton has been appointed as an Alternate Commissioner on the Town of Washington Zoning Commission. Mr. Dutton stated that he would remain with the Conservation Commission as well.

Mr. Bernard stated that Steep Rock Association hired a contractor for the Natural Resource Inventory Survey. The Commission briefly discussed the possibility of hiring the contractor to survey the New Preston Open Space.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn at 6:50 pm 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