

June 6, 2012

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

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

Absent: Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt, Randy Bernard, Alt.

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others:

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Phil Dutton. Ann Quachenbos, Alt

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the May 2, 2012 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the May 2, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted,

by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton, passed by 4-0 vote.

2012-2013 Budget

Ms. Payne stated that HVA is working on the revised Town Open Space Map.

Ms. Payne stated that the Board of Finance granted \$6,300.00 out of the \$10,000.00 that the Conservation Commission requested for the 2012-2013 budget. She stated that they did not receive any money for the Open Space Acquisition Fund or for Housing. Ms. Payne stated that the C.C. could pay for the updated Town Open Space Map out of the current budget.

Open Space Acquisition Fund:

Ms. Payne stated that she spoke with Atty. Miles to discuss whether the language in the existing Open Space Ordinance allows for use of the funds for preservation of the Town's open space properties. Atty. Miles stated that the language strictly refers to money used to acquire something to preserve it. Ms. Payne stated that she talked to the First Selectman who told her that the Conservation Commission could include an amendment that allows a certain, annual limit, possibly a percentage, of the funds that could be used for stewardship of the existing open space properties owned by the Town. The Commission briefly discussed including an amendment. It was the consensus of the Commission that Ms. Payne would draft an amendment and present it to the Board of Selectmen.

5:25

Motion:

to go into Executive Session to discuss a real estate,

by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton, passed by 4-0 vote.

5:40

Motion:

to come out of Executive Session,
by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton, passed by 4-0 vote.

Cell Tower Update

Ms. Payne stated that a proposal would be coming in from Homeland Towers and the First Selectman will call a special meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Cell Tower Committee, which will be open to the public to review the proposal and provide input. She stated that the next step would be to have a public information meeting, probably with a balloon float and then another Town meeting.

POCD Update

Mr. Dutton stated that in conjunction with the Conservation Commission coming up with the goals for the next year, he would like to see the specific Conservation Commission goals reflected in the revised POCD. He stated that the Commission may find that municipal funding would be needed to achieve some of the long term goals because many of the goals are funding dependent and would require specific budget allocations. The Commission briefly discussed the budgeting process.

Budget

Mr. Dutton stated that the Conservation Commission relies on volunteers and help from the Town to maintain the open space properties. The members of the Commission discussed the need for hiring a biologist to do a baseline report on the New Preston Open Space property. Ms. Payne suggested paying for part of biologist's fee out of this year's budget and the remainder out of next years budget. Ms. Frank stated that she would favor spending \$1,000.00 on a biologist and another \$1,000.00 on eradication of knotweed. Ms. Payne stated that she would talk with the Selectman's Office to see how to arrange payment for the retainer for a biologist and the knotweed eradication.

Motion:

to allocate \$1,000.00 as a retainer for the New Preston Open Space Survey and \$1,000.00 to retain knotweed specialist from the current budget,
by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton, passed by 4-0 vote.

Conservation Commission Goals for 2012

The Conservation Commission discussed their goals for the next year and Mr. Markert's compilation of objectives that should fall under the C.C's responsibilities in the revised POCD. The Commission agreed to the following goals:

1. Stewardship of Natural Resources
2. Work with the Zoning Commission to revise the Town of Washington Zoning Regulations to include language for Conservation/Cluster Development Ridgeline Protection/Clear Cutting practices.
3. Water Resource Protection

Monitoring

Ms. Frank stated that she and Ms. Quachenbos walked the Gunn Hill Road site and everything

looks okay.

Referrals and New Projects

132 Calhoun Street Conservation Easement:

Mr. Charles stated that the Baseline Report has been updated and needs to be filed with the tax assessor. He stated that he would notify Ms. Payne when the monuments are in and schedule a site visit where Ms. Payne could then sign the Baseline Report and provide the Contemporaneous Written Acknowledgement. Mr. Charles stated that the Conservation Easement Document would get recorded this month, the property would be appraised in January or February of 2013, and Ms. Payne would sign the appraisal if it were approved.

Other Business

* Ms. Payne stated that Mr. Templeton has volunteered to supervise some teen volunteers that have signed up to help with the trimming of the Greenway.

* The Commission looked at a site plan for a proposed home on Calhoun Street to see the location of the proposed structures to the adjacent easement.

Adjournment

Motion:

to adjourn at 6:35pm by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk