

April 5, 2006

Present: Chairperson Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman

Guests: Addie Roberts, Patte Doran

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Susan Payne and Joe Gitterman picked maps from the Natural Resource Inventory Report to be mounted for display in the Land Use Meeting Room. Joe took the maps to be mounted.

MOTION: Kelly Boling made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted from the March 1, 2006 Conservation Commission, Susan Payne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tree Cutting on South Fenn Hill in town right of way: Janet Hill, Land Use Coordinator sent a memo to Susan Payne regarding a letter she received from Martin Greenstein at 146 Lower Church Hill Road voicing his concern with work being done on South Fenn Hill Road and the removal of large trees close to the road. Joe Gitterman offered to reclude himself from this discussion as he is a neighbor. Members felt this was not necessary as discussion would be of a general nature. Members looked at a photo of the area before the tree removal took place. Joe Gitterman explained that trees and a bank were removed along the roadside. Members discussed what they thought was the town's policy on the roadside right-of-way. Addie Roberts stated that there were no standard measurements, not every roadway is measured in the same way. Kelly Boling felt that there were most likely no violations on the South Fenn Hill property. Addie Roberts went on to explain the Planning Commission attempts to keep a rural look by having set asides on the roadside, which also makes for easy monitoring. Ms. Roberts went on to say that the Selectmen are in charge of the town roads, recommendations need to be made to the Selectmen. Joe Gitterman explained that disturbances like the one on South Fenn Hill could also affect the wetlands. Kelly Boling suggested a roadside overlay area, for the protection of the roadscape. Members also discussed the role of the Tree Warden, which Addie noted was essentially to mark trees for removal. Members of the Conservation Commission agreed to work on a draft recommendation.

Report on NW Conservation District's Lower Impact Development Workshop: Linda Frank attended this workshop but was unable to be at tonight's Conservation Commission meeting, members decided to table discussion until next month.

Subcommittee Reports:

Open Space Committee: Susan Payne reported that the Open Space Committee will not meet in April, their May 17th meeting will be held in Marbledale and they will discuss open space and historical preservation with interested residents of the Marbledale area.

Ridgeline Protection: no report

Archaeological Resources Protection: Betsy continues her work and is making progress

Land Use Data Management: no report

Greenway: Susan Payne reported that Greenway held a clean up this past Sunday; they have two new members the Mr. & Mrs. Templeton. Ms. Payne also reported that there was storm damage on the Greenway trail by the Washington Primary School and they will need more man power to help with cleanup. Greenway is also working toward a link between the Hidden Valley Preserve and Macricostas

Preserve. Ray Reich from the Washington Park and Rec Commission is working with the Greenway members on a scenic bike/hike trail.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: no report

Scenic Road: no new activity

Canoe Brook: no report

Cell Tower Update: no report

Flora & Fauna: Betsy continues her work and is making progress.

Water Resources monitoring and Protection: no report

Best Development Practices brochure development: Review Kelly's draft of BDP's: Discussion began with Patte Doran voicing her concern with the commission's prior discussion on the South Fenn Hill property and over regulating, her concern was with having everything appear pristine, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Patte didn't want to see burdens placed on the homeowners. Kelly Boling felt that the commission was heading toward preventive cutting. Kelly Boling began discussion on the outline by stating that he felt the Best Development Practices brochure should be pictorial with two categories encouraged & discouraged practices. After discussion it was decided that members would take pictures and forward them to Kelly.

Other Business

Members received their Winter 2006 "Habitat" from the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, Inc.

Susan Payne shared an article about the town of Harwinton's ordinance on preservation of stonewalls.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is May 3, 2006 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary