

July 1, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Averill, Mr. Bender, Mr. Buck, Mr. Byerly, Mr. Charles

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Rimsky, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Sabin

STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Shade, Mrs. Luckey

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Boling

Mr. Bender called the meeting to order at 7:31PM. He seated Members Averill, Bender, Buck, Byerly and Charles.

Consideration of the Minutes

MOTION: To accept the 6/3/03 Regular Meeting minutes as amended:

Pg.2, Par.4, Line 2; add a comma between **recommendation** and **that**.....

Pg.2, Par.4, Line 3; add a comma between **evaluated** and **will**.....

By Mr. Charles, seconded by Mr. Byerly and passed 5-0.

MOTION: To include subsequent business not already posted on the agenda. By Mrs. Averill, seconded by Mr. Charles and passed 5-0.

Other Business

Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Bender informed the members about a printing error on the poster advertising the public meeting. The poster advertises the date as Tuesday, July 18 (July 18 is a Friday). Mr. Bender said he would like to suggest a change in the date of the public meeting because he is concerned about the short period of time between July 15th and 18th.

Members of all other town commissions have been invited to the special meeting on July 15th to hear a presentation by Chris Wood and review Draft #5 of the Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Bender said it is not known what issues may come up at the special meeting and it may be necessary to make substantial changes in the draft as it exists. Mr. Bender commented that he had been through the plan and feels there are many changes yet to be made. He asked the members how they felt about changing the date. All agreed July 25th at 7:30PM was acceptable.

MOTION: To determine that the public meeting for the presentation and discussion of the draft of the new Plan of Conservation and Development will be held at 7:30PM on Friday July 25, 2003. By Mr. Bender, seconded by Mr. Charles and passed 5-0.

Mr. Chalder will print new posters. Mr. Rimsky asked if there will be any publicity other than the posters. Mr. Bender replied that Mr. Chalder has a release prepared for the Litchfield County Times. Mr. Rimsky suggested the release also be sent to other papers in order to reach as many people as possible. After a brief discussion, it was decided to include the New Milford Times, the Waterbury Republican, Spectrum and Voices.

Mr. Bender said he has four pages of notes; corrections to the draft. He will discuss these notes with Mr. Wood. Mr. Bender reminded the commissioners to please put in writing any comments, changes,

addition or deletions to draft #5 and submit them to Mrs. Hill. He asked if there were any other comments on the present state of the draft plan.

Mr. Charles asked if his copy of the Open Space Plan, revised 6/10/03, was the final plan. Mr. Bender said he did not know whether the Conservation Commission had formally adopted it, but he believes it to be the final plan. Mrs. Luckey observed that Mr. Boling is on that Commission - maybe he knows. Mr. Boling stated that plan has been adopted and he does not think any significant changes will be made to the report. Mr. Charles said he had taken time to read the Open Space Plan thoroughly and has tried to match up the Conservation Commission Report, the Open Space Steering Committee Report and the Plan of Conservation and Development and he thinks there are significant discrepancies. Mr. Bender stated in the Plan of Conservation and Development, the members adopted the Open Space Report and somewhere in the draft it states - if there are variances, this plan as adopted will prevail. Mr. Charles said he could no longer support that. Mr. Bender suggested he put his thoughts on paper.

A letter to the Commission from Kelly Boling was added to the agenda. The letter concerned discontinuing certain roads in town. Each member was given a copy of his letter, a list of questions and answers about public highway discontinuance and a draft response to the letter by Mr. Bender. Mr. Bender gave the members a few minutes to look over the letter and draft.

Mr. Bender said he is not familiar with all of the roads recommended for discontinuance and would like to see a map to understand exactly what is at stake. Mrs. Averill said she could find the roads but a map would be helpful. Mr. Bender asked the other members how they felt - would they rather have a map or make a trip to the Assessor's Office to look up each road. Mrs. Roberts said she would like a map. All agreed. Mr. Bender said he would send his letter to Mr. Boling and the Highway Discontinuance Committee requesting a map.

The members briefly discussed how living on a discontinued road would affect existing property owners, developing new dwellings, road maintenance, etc. Discontinued roads could be used for passive recreation such as walking, riding bikes and horses. Mr. Boling said the State Statutes would protect the town and abutting homeowners against liability. Mrs. Luckey stated discontinuing any roads would have to be voted on at a town meeting.

Mr. Bender asked if there were any questions from the public. There were none.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. By Mr. Buck.

Mr. Bender adjourned the meeting at 8:00PM.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Martha T. Shade, Secretary