

July 11, 2012

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

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

Absent: Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt

Staff Present: Shelley White

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the June 6, 2012 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the June 6, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted,

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

Budget

It was the consensus of the members of the Conservation Commission present that because of budget cuts hiring a biologist to do a baseline report on the New Preston Open Space property would have to be tabled for now.

Updated Town Open Space Map

The Commission looked at the updated Town Open Space Map titled Permanently Protected Land Map, Washington, CT, dated June 2012 by the Housatonic Valley Association.

Goals for 2012

Ms. Payne stated that the Conservation Commission would use the updated Open Space Map and other maps from the Natural Resource Map Series to aid in determining how they could use their funds to protect potential risk areas.

It was the consensus of the members present that they would discuss the goals for this year when there are more members in attendance at the September 5, 2012 regular scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission.

Referrals/New Projects – Gunnery/Proposed South St. Athletic Fields

Ms. Payne noted that Dr. Tamara Sachs' letter opposing the proposed athletic fields was in the June 29, 2012 Litchfield County Times. It was noted that Dr. Sachs did read her letter at the last Zoning Meeting on June 25, 2012. The public hearing for the Gunnery Proposed Athletic Fields has been scheduled for Wednesday July 25, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Land Use Meeting Room at Bryan Memorial Town Hall.

Cell Tower Update

Ms. Payne stated that a lease from Homeland Towers is being reviewed and the First Selectman will call a special meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Cell Tower Committee. There was a brief discussion regarding the proposed cell tower and how the lease has been written to reflect the Conservation Commission's stance on cell towers.

Decommissioning of Streetlights

Mr. Dutton stated that he would contact the First Selectman and the Resident State Trooper and report back to the Commission in September.

Knotweed Update

Mr. Gambino treated the New Preston Open Space and the New Preston Falls area. Ms. Payne stated that she would be meeting with the First Selectman and Ms. Dyer from the Garden Club, who have expressed interest in contributing to the eradication of the Knotweed. She stated that she would report back to the Commission regarding this subject.

POCD Update

The Planning Commission will be holding a public informational meeting on Saturday July 28, 2012 in the Main Hall at Bryan Memorial Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. along with the planners from Milone & MacBroom. This meeting will explain the Plan of Conservation and Development to the public and ask for feedback.

Other Business

Mr. Dutton stated that he spoke to the Webmaster regarding putting the Open Space Map on the Town Website.

Ms. Payne stated that there is a hearing at the Connecticut Siting Council's Offices in New Britain on July 24, 2012 regarding wind turbines regulations.

Mr. Bernard explained the work he would be doing on Bee Brook this summer.

Adjournment

Motion:

to adjourn at 6:00 pm by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Ms. Frank.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk