

# February 6, 2013

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

**Members Present:** Susan Payne, Diane Dupuis, Linda Frank, Ann Quackenbos, Alt., Randy Bernard, Alt. , Betsy Corrigan, Alt

**Absent:** Phil Markert, Dirk Sabin, Alt.

**Staff Present:** Shelley White

**Others:** First Selectman Lyon

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Randy Bernard, Alt., Betsy Corrigan, Alt

## **Consideration of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the January 9, 2013 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Corrections:

Page 1: under Absent: Delete Phil Dutton (he had already resigned)

Last page: under Adjournment:, last sentence should read: Ms. Payne Adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Motion:

to accept the December 5, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended,

by Ms. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Quackenbos, passed by 5-0 vote.

## **Discussion with First Selectman:**

Ms. Payne stated that First Selectman Lyon has been in contact with CL&P and would be requesting that the poles that are being removed from the New Preston Open Space be cut at or below ground level. She stated that the Town is also looking into seeing if the Right of Way can be extinguished on the property.

First Selectman Lyon stated that he talked to the Town's Regional Representative with CL&P and has put in the request to remove the stumps/poles at ground level but it needs to go through the proper channels and CL&P would contact the First Selectman's office to keep him updated on their progress.

Mr. Lyon stated that he is also working with CL&P on clearing a spot on East Shore Road that would allow for overflow parking from Lake.

There was a discussion regarding high voltage wires along the street.

First Selectman Lyon distributed copies of a sheet that has highlights of the proposed Option and Lease Agreement between the Town and Homeland Towers LLC, Site Plan, Compound Plan, Southern Elevation, cellular coverage maps and photos of what the proposed tower would look

like.

Ms. Dupuis asked about the Health Insurance. First Selectman Lyon stated that it is in the Lease and that the attorneys have explained that the Lease does protect the Town if someone should sue the cell carriers for health reasons.

Mr. Lyon and the Commissioners looked at the indemnification clause included in the Lease and discussed the distributed documents (all on file in the Land Use Office).

There were discussions regarding emergency access to the proposed tower, coverage and the viewsheds. Homeland Towers needs to schedule another balloon float that would stay up all day but it needs to be the right conditions outside. First Selectman Lyon stated that they would try to notify everyone as soon as possible as to when this would be. He asked that the balloon be floated at 160 ft and have 130 ft marked.

The Commissioners and First Selectman discussed the height of the proposed tower and the stipulations included in the Lease.

Ms. Dupuis asked if anyone has discussed microwave dishes on the proposed tower. First Selectman Lyon said that microwave dishes are used for tower-to-tower transmissions and it was not discussed but he tried to get stronger language in the Lease about accepting changes, but Homeland Towers did not want to grant that. He stated that he is not aware that they would be erecting this proposed tower with microwave dishes.

There was a brief discussion regarding the neighbors to the proposed tower. First Selectman Lyon stated that he has informed all of them and has one person express some reservations.

The Commissioners and First Selectman discussed rent and fees for the proposed tower.

First Selectman Lyon stated that the Town Meeting would be Saturday, March 9, 2013. He stated that if the resolution passes, the Board of Selectmen sign the lease and after Homeland Towers has a carrier sign on with them they then go to the Connecticut Siting Council.

Ms. Dupuis stated that she would like the public to be informed that the Conservation Commission has not looked at the environmental impacts of this proposed tower because they must wait until an application has been submitted and an application has not been submitted to the Siting Council at this time.

*First Selectman Lyon leaves.*

## **Town Plan of Conservation and Development**

### **Natural Resources, Open Space & Recreation:**

The Commission looked at Draft #4 - Natural Resources, Open Space & Recreation Draft by Milone & MacBroom for the revised POCD.

There was a brief discussion regarding the maps included in this draft.

Ms. Quackenbos feels there should be more public input. The Commissioners agreed but Mr.

Bernard feels that it has been difficult to get the public engaged in this process. The Commission discussed the possibility of suggesting that a survey should be put online for residents to answer and provide feedback.

#### Sustainability:

The Commissioners discussed the Sustainability Draft report by Milone & MacBroom.

Ms. Payne stated that she has thought about what is the Town of Washington looking to sustain and feels that it is “our quality of life which is predicated on our rural character.”

The Commissioners discussed water management, protecting the water and disposal of wastewater. There was a consensus among the Commissioners that Mr. Talbot’s request for a soil study for the village centers should be seriously considered by the Town..

Ms. Frank suggested that a map be included in the POCD identifying water resources because these resources are important and they need protection.

### **Other Business**

#### New Preston Open Space:

Ms. Payne stated that she would like to get the stewardship committee together to schedule workdays for when it warms up outside.

#### Watercourses/Waterways:

Mr. Bernard stated that he could provide some stream walking material that he has put together for Bee Brook.

#### Annual Monitoring:

Ms. Payne stated that it is a good time of year to start the monitoring process.

#### Invasive Plant Management:

Ms. Payne stated that she feels the importance of eradicating invasive plants; especially on prime Town property should be emphasized in the revised POCD.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: to adjourn at 6:20 pm by Ms. Dupuis.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,  
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk