

**MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2020**

**5:15 P.M.**

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Ms. Branson, Ms. Dupuis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. O'Hazo

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Conroy

ALTERNATES ABSENT: Ms. Rawson

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Mr. Francis, representative for Arthur Howland, Mr. Schlosberg, and Mr. Charles

CLERK: Ms. Gallagher

With a quorum present, Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. and seated Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Ms. Branson, Ms. Dupuis, and Mr. Conroy for Mr. O'Hazo.

Ms. Payne introduced the Commission members to Mr. Francis.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** 00:39

The Commission members reviewed the minutes from the February 5, 2020 meeting. The members asked the clerk for verification of spelling and clarification of a feed in tariff.

Motion: ***To approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 minutes as written by Ms. Frank seconded by Ms. Dupuis Passed 5-0.***

**New Preston Falls Project:** 2:45

Ms. Branson informed the members that the Wetlands Enforcement Officer approved a modification of the existing permit to allow the town to remove the existing bridge. Ms. Branson spoke about possible suggestions on how to proceed after the bridge is removed from the site.

Ms. Branson met with Ms. Rabinowitz and Mr. Papsin on Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup> she gave the Commission member a brief overview of the meeting which included remove dead trees, remove invasive, stabilize banks, mark property boundaries. Ms. Branson's notes are available in the Clerk's office. Ms. Rabinowitz will mark invasives to be removed in early spring by hand; no machines; no herbicides will be used.

Mr. Schlosberg asked about the trees that are marked at the New Preston Falls site. He asked if they are going to be removed. The Commission informed him that they are on State owned property and the town of Washington will not be removing them. Ms. Branson asked if the Zoning Enforcement officer could remove the marking from those trees.

**202 Wykeham Road:** 10:55

Mr. Francis from Author Howland and Associates addressed the Commission about a building site plan they developed for the property. There is a Conservation Easement on the property and they want approval from the commission before the work begins. Mr. Francis went over the site plans with the Commission members and review the size of the lot. The Commission was concerned with one area of the site plan. The proposed driveway appears to be about 12" from the easement. Mr. Francis explained that there will be no grading to the driveway and the driveway is configured to try to save a hickory tree on the property. They had a brief discussion if the driveway could be moved to avoid impact to the easement area. The Commission members and Mr. Francis discussed some sort of buffer to protect the easement area such as extending the stone wall or adding shrubs to avoid impact to the Conservation easement area.

Motion: ***To grant approval with the condition that a barrier be in place, such as extending the stone wall or planting native shrubs to clearly mark and protect the Conservation Easement area that is closest to the driveway, for 202 Wykeham Rd site plan, by Ms. Frank seconded by Ms. Dupuis Passed 5-0.***

**Solar Panel Regs:** 23:26

Ms. Dupuis is waiting for Mr. Furse to come back from his vacation. This will be discussed at the April Conservation Commission meeting.

**GIS MAPS:** 24:03

Ms. Frank spoke to representative at Weantinog about its mapping that Ms. Rawson spoke about during the February meeting. Ms. Frank then spoke to Ms. White the land use administrator about the current mapping that is being used within the town. Ms. White informed Ms. Frank that the Town of Washington's mapping is being upgraded. Ms. Frank would like to see if she can arrange a meeting with Weantinog to review their mapping with the Commission Members. Ms. Frank would like to have a mapping demonstration with Weantinog and have various departments within town hall attend.

**Tree Cutting Regs:** 26:10

Ms. Branson said that the Conservation Commission has done its part and it now waiting for zoning. Ms. Hill, Vice Chairman of Zoning, started a subcommittee and Ms. Branson would like to have a Conservation Commission member on the subcommittee. Ms. Payne asked any member that was interested to contact her directly.

**Western CT Clean Air Action Report:** 27:50

Ms. Frank met with the Western CT Clean Air Action on March 2, 2020 at Kent Town Hall. They discussed the pro's and con's of developing a website vs the Facebook presence they currently have now, No decision on was made.

All the monitors are collecting data in the eight-member towns. The Cricket Valley Energy Plant in Dover Plains is not up and running yet but they think it may be by the end of March.

**Rabbit Hill Bridge:** 31:31

Ms. Dupuis reported on the public information meeting that was held on February 18, 2020. Ms. Dupuis was happy to report that a compromise was made to have the bridge no wider than 19' wide with an one foot elevation. Ms. Dupuis showed some pictures of possible bridge designs that being considered. Ms. Dupuis said that the bridge construction will probably start next year. Ms. Dupuis explained how there will be another public information meeting before the bridge work begins. Mr. Conroy asked if there's a list of scenic roads in town, he was informed that there is a list on the town web site.

Ms. Charles told the commission about some of the problems with scenic roads the he saw while being on the planning commission. Ms. Payne asked Mr. Charles to draft a proposal

**March Falls clean-up:** 40:35

Mr. O'Hazo sent out an email regarding a clean up at the New Preston Falls site on March 14<sup>th</sup> and or March 21<sup>st</sup>, the only member to respond was Ms. Branson. Ms. Payne will check with Mr. O'Hazo to see if he is still going to do the clean-up.

**2014 TPOCD Action Review:** 41:29

Mr. Cole who passed away suddenly was working on the 2014 Town Plan of Conservation and Development Action Review, he will be missed dearly and the Commissions extends heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. Ms. Payne discussed the Open Space steering committee and how they had a goal to have 30% land preserved in the town. Ms. Payne has been keeping a running tally of preserved land in town, which is 27.9% of land is permanently preserved in town. This does not include the 490 farm land which in not permanently preserved. Ms. Frank asked about tax breaks for home owners that preserve land. Mr. Charles explained, 490, to Ms. Frank, and also how the tax breaks within the town work.

**Update Natural Resource Inventory Maps:** 48:51

The Planning Commission is working on updating Natural Resource Inventory Maps. Ms. Payne will give an update next month. The town is also updating to interactive digital maps. Mr. Schlosberg asked if this mapping will show current habitat and possibly show changes to the land. Ms. Payne said the mapping will not be that detailed but Ms. Frank wondered if an aerial mapping view would show changes to habitats. Mr. Schlosberg asked what specific maps are in the Natural Resource Inventory Maps. The Commission asked him to check with the Land Use Administrator and gave several other suggestions of groups that he might want to research.

**WEC: Pesticide Preemption law:** 53:30

Ms. Payne will update next month.

**Alternate Vacancy:** 53:40

This was tabled to next month

**Cell Tower/choice of site in Kent:** 53:45

The are no new updates.

**New Preston Open Space:** 53:59

Ms. Corrigan is working on updating the Vernal Pool Map. She sent over a rough draft of the Vernal Pool Map. The map she sent to the Commission is brand new and is to stay in house until completed. Any interested parties can contact Ms. Corrigan directly if there are questions.

**Other and or Old Business:** 57:25

Ms. Payne spoke to Dr. Bazos about conserving a piece of land that he owns on Tinker Hill Rd. She hasn't heard back from him and will update commission members at next month's meeting.

**WEC:** 59:00

Earth day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Payne said they are planning a town road side clean-up she asked the Commission members if they'd be interested in taking on road to clean. Ms. Payne will forward the email to the members.

**Affordable Housing:** 1:01:20

Mr. Charles spoke to the Commission about affordable house and having energy efficient homes built in town. He shared a of a proposal the he wrote in 2013. The commission referenced the two homes that were built on Mygatt Rd. and how nice they look. Mr. Charles explained how a home should have air exchange, to give ten air changes a day.

**MOTION:** *To adjourn meeting at 6:23 p.m. by Ms. Frank seconded by Ms. Dupuis Passed 5-0.*

Respectfully Submitted:



Karen Gallagher  
Conservation Commission Clerk  
03-09-2020