Washington Conservation Commission

**May 2, 2018**

#### Minutes

**5:00 p.m**. **Upper Level Meeting Room**

Members Present: Susan Payne, Tyler O’Hazo

Members Absent: Diane Dupuis, Randy Bernard, Linda Frank

Alternates Present: Catherine Rawson, Dirk Sabin

Alternates Absent: Katherine Bennett

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Others: Dan Sherr, Economic Development Committee

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM

##### Ms. Payne introduced Catherine Rawson as the new CC alternate replacing Ann Quackenbos. Ms. Payne thanked Ms. Quackenbos for her service and all the CC members expressed their appreciation for Ann’s contributions to the Commission.

Ms. Payne seated Dirk Sabin for Randy Bernard and Catherine Rawson for Linda Frank

**Consideration of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the April 4, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

**Motion:** To accept the April 4, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted. By Mr. O’Hazo, seconded by Mr. Sabin, passed by 4-0 vote.

##### Economic Development Committee (ECD) Focus for FY 18-19 – Daniel Sherr

Mr. Sherr distributed a document entitled *Washington Economic Development – Delivering the POCD.* He provided an informative presentation regarding Washington’s focus on RT 47 to RT 202 area projects for 2018 – 2019.

* Lauren Booth will create a mural in the “pop-up park” on the Booth property where the former Jack’s Restaurant, Dobbers Den and Shepaug Club were.
* The Town Greenway will be enhanced with the assistance of Steep Rock.
* Research into a Community Center south of the Firehouse is planned.
* A 3-mile loop walk is planned on west side of RT 47 north of Buffum Rd out to RT 202 for bikers, strollers, flat walking.

##### Clean-up of the Old Town Garage Site – For WAA (The Washington Art Association), Sculpture Walk & the Greenway – Dirk Sabin

Mr. Sabin provided the members with a background on the former town garage site. It is approximately 4+ acres and is located at the end of Titus Road in the center of Washington Depot. The property lies to the rear of the G.W. Tavern property and has access from Titus Road. The site has been plagued by years of neglect relating mostly to dumping. The long awaited cleanup of the site has begun at the request of the WAA to accommodate WAA’s Sculpture Walk which will be a public art exhibition featuring over 40 internationally recognized artists, sculptures, local talents. The Sculpture Walk will open in mid-July.

The site will be cleared of all stockpiles and invasives, will be seeded for lawn, and will provide access to the Shepaug River. And, at last, the Town Greenway will finally be continued on this site.

There is a need for a substantial amount of topsoil to complete this project. Members discussed CC’s contribution and resolved to allocate between $2500 and $3000 from the Open Space Fund as some amount may be used for stewardship annually. The resolution was unanimous, passing 4 to 0.

New Preston Falls Project Update

Mr. Sabin used his landscaping firm’s site plan entitled *New Preston Mill and Falls*, 5 East Shore Road, to provide a summary of the project (action plan and timeline) for the new Alternate, Katherine Rawson.

Ms. Payne met with Bill Pollock of Arbor Services who will provide the CC with a bid for further tree management this summer.

Ms. Rawson recommended that an assessment of endangered species be done. Field Biologist Betsy Corrigan will be contacted.

Schedule a Bus Tour of Town properties/easements that CC oversees and areas of concern

Ms. Payne is overseeing a June 6th bus tour (at 4 PM) which will include easements that the CC has taken and that require monitoring by the Washington Land Use Office. Also covered in the tour will be New Preston Falls, New Preston Open Space, and West Shore Road at Lake Waramaug with its development pressures. The bus returns to the Town Hall for the 6/6 CC meeting.

**Motion:** to adjourn by Mr. Sabin, seconded by Mr. O’Hazo and passed 4 to 0.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

###### Submitted subject to approval,

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk, May 9, 2018

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