Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

#### Washington Conservation Commission

#### Minutes

**March 4, 2015**

Members Present:Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard

Members Absent: Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis,

Alternates Present:

Alternates Absent: Dirk Sabin, Betsy Corrigan, Ann Quackenbos

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Ms. Payne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard

**Consideration of the Minutes**

The minutes of the February 4, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered and accepted as submitted.

**Zoning Regulations on Horizon Line Protection** – Linda Frank

The Kent Zoning Commission met on the February 19, 2015 regarding the Horizon Line Conservation Overlay Districts. Ms. Frank called Donna Hayes, Kent Land Use Administrator the week of February 23rd to check on the status and is awaiting a call back. She will stay on top of this to see what Kent’s status is. Ms. Frank displayed the map generated by the Housatonic Valley Association. There is a lot on the map and this makes it appear that there is too much that would be regulated. Conservation reviewed Slopes, Peaks & Prominences, and Scenic Views & Vistas maps from the 2000 Natural Resource Inventory Report. HVA will be asked to combine Slopes and Peaks and Prominences maps onto the new HVA map, retain the permanently protected fee property and subtract the conservation easements. Goal is a simpler map to protect Horizon lines.

**Walker Brook Degradation Advisory Plan Further Update** – Randy Bernard

### The commission turned to ongoing discussions regarding dirt road runoff into streams, water courses and wetlands. Mr. Bernard summarized two scientific articles that he researched. One was on bio retention using soil. This protects baby fish from urban salt water runoff. Another article discussed the aquatic toxicity of road salt (sodium chloride) which is toxic to baby fish. The committee also held a brief discussion on how the Route 202 area is overrun with phragmites, control and abatement issues. All Habitat can eradicate phragmites in sensitive wetlands; has been used by Steep Rock. This topic will be continued at a future meeting.

**New Preston Open Space** – Susan Payne

Ms. Payne reported on the acreage for the Steep Rock easement purchase which was 17+ acres. Steep Rock is now at 5322+ acres permanently protected and the town’s total is 6756+ acres permanently protected.

**Other Business**

* *Planning Commission – Update on Subcommittee on Sustainability*

Ms. Payne had nothing new to report on the subcommittee for sustainability being organized by The Planning Commission. Ms. Payne told Chairman Sarah Gager that once Planning formulates what they need and everything is more definitive, then Conservation would go forward from there.

* *Town of Washington Parcel Map Digitalization – Board of Selectmen & Board of Finance*

Ms. Payne and Ms. Frank will attend a Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting to urge Mark Lyon to support to the town’s new Tax Assessor, Delisse Locher, who is requesting $15-$20,000 for the purpose of digitizing town parcel maps and bringing the town of Washington up to date with computer software/capabilities. Washington is in the dark ages compared to other towns.  There are quite a few new employees who are tech savvy and need the latest resources with which to do their jobs.

**Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Submitted Subject to Approval,

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk March 11, 2015