**Town of Washington Conservation Commission**

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

Minutes – November 2, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Phil Market, Randy Bernard,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Dupuis

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Dirk Sabin, Ann Quackenbos

ALTERNATES ABSENT: Betsy Corrigan

OTHERS: Chris Charles, Richard Heffernon

Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM and seated Ann Quackenbos for Diane Dupuis.

Consideration of the Minutes – October 5, 2016

The members considered the regular meeting minutes for October 5, 2016.

Corrections: 1) Page 1, under 90A Tinker Hill Bazos, relocate the 2nd bullet “Review Final Subdivision Plan Prepared for Timothy……” and place under the 1st Item – “Ingrassia Subdivision Project”.

2) “Under topic 90A Tinker Hill Bazos proposed easement…..” correct Dirk Sabin’s title to “Landscape Architect”.

MOTION: To accept the October 5, 2016 minutes as amended. By Ms. Payne, seconded by

Ms. Frank, passed 5 to 0.

Tinker Hill Bazos proposed Conservation Easement & Management Plan – Susan Payne

Ms. Payne heard from Dirk Sabin on November 2nd, the day of the meeting. Mr. Sabin did not have a report to give to the Commission in time for the meeting.

West Indies, LLC/Klemm, 96 Calhoun Street/Conservation Easement – Attorney Rob Fisher

Attorney Fisher presented a map prepared by Arthur H. Howland & Associates dated October 31, 2016 entitled *Easement Map prepared for West Indies, LLC, Parcel C, Total Area = 24.8207 acres.* The LLC is owned by Peter and Christina Klemm. The restrictions are essentially the same as in the Conservation Easement already on the adjacent property. The remaining area not offered as part of the easement is unencumbered by conservation easements.

Attorney Fisher offered to prepare a draft proposal. Ms. Payne said that would be beneficial to have a document for the Commission to review and then discuss at the December 7th meeting. Ms. Payne asked the members if their thinking was favorable regarding this and asked the members present if they wanted Attorney Fisher to continue pursuing. It was agreed that Attorney Fisher should go forward with the proposal.

Phragmities Eradication Progress – Randy Bernard

The project is stalled until spring of 2017.

Tree Cutting/what regulations does the town need? – Susan Payne

Janet Hill, Land Use Administrator, emailed Ms. Payne regarding Ms. Payne’s question on whether the Town of Washington has regulations that limit tree cutting. Ms. Hill stated that generally a permit is not required for tree cutting with the following exceptions:

* cutting/clearing within an inland wetlands or regulated area because generally the IW Commission does not favor clear cutting in these areas. The canopy is so important for the wetlands.
* commercial timber harvesting, in which case a permit from the Selectmen’s Office is needed

Ms. Payne and the other members stated that it would be worthwhile looking at. Ms. Payne said that residents do ask her about cutting down trees in the town. Tree cutting in the town would make a good area for the Sustainability Committee to investigate.

2014 TPOCD – Environmental Sustainability Action Items – All Members

Mr. Richard Heffernon and Mr. Chris Charles of the Sustainability Committee were in attendance and offered. comments and information for improving environmental sustainability as various agenda items were discussed. As people discussed topics items on the agenda, it was mentioned that an area being discussed might be another area for the Sustainability Committee. A suggestion to consider was the posting of pertinent information on the Washington website.

DOT Broken Bridge at New Preston Falls – Susan Payne

Selectman Lyon emailed Susan Payne on November 1st letting her know that he met with Amy Martinez from DOT Properties, visited the site and reviewed maps. Due to the bridge abutments on the property the DOT may want to keep an extra wide Right of Way which will create a very small piece to transfer. The DOT may not be willing to do all the resurveying, mapping, filing, etc. for such a small exchange that would end up going to a municipality. They do have a program of a $0.00 “lease” which will give Washington use of the property. Mr. Lyon stated that discussions are ongoing.

Town Streetlights Project – Linda Frank

The project is completed and Ms. Frank submitted the report to Mark Lyon. Approximately 20 lights could be turned off and there was one dark intersection where lighting is needed.

Lid Regulations and Horizon Line/View Shed Protection – Linda Frank, Dirk Sabin, Phil Markert

The Commission is still waiting for the report from Sean Hayden.

Lake Environmental Issues – Ann Quackenbos

Lake Waramaug is currently experiencing a drought-reduced water level as are numerous bodies of water throughout the state. A short discussion ensued concerning the drought.

Randy Bernard provided an update regarding how the Waterbury Water Company is controlling how much water can be released into the Shepaug River.

Water conservation is another area that the Sustainability Committee might want to pursue.

New Preston Businesses and Residents Awareness Campaign – Phil Markert

Mr. Markert mentioned how precious parking spaces are in the New Preston down town area. The situation exists that cars carrying kayaks and also bicycles park in front of the stores, sometimes for a full day. The Commission mentioned that there is a large stated owned space that could be put to good use for situations like this. Posting “no parking” signs might discourage people from going into the stores to shop.

Eagle Scout Project – Gunnery Student, Brendon Vejseli

Brendon’s project involved removing invasives and planting native perennials along the Shepaug River on a section of River Walk. Brendon and his group of volunteers did some planting along the river at the end of the summer and placed rocks along the walk to prevent erosion from heavy rains into the cleared section. Ms. Payne noted that some of the plants are still alive and hopefully will make it through the winter.

Since there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti

Conservation Commission Clerk