Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### Washington Conservation Commission

**Minutes November 4, 2015**

5:00 PM Upper Level Meeting Room

Members Present: Linda Frank

Members Absent: Susan Payne, Diane Dupuis, Phil Markert, Randy Bernard

Alternates Present: Dirk Sabin, Ann Quackenbos

Alternates Absent: Betsy Corrigan

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Ms. Frank called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM and seated alternates Dirk Sabin and Ann Quackenbos.

Environmental Issues

This agenda item really ties into the program on November 17, 2015, 7:00 PM at St. John’s Episcopal Parish House by Sean Hayden, a soil scientist with the Northwest Conservation District, State of CT. The presentation will be on low-impact development (LID) practices for water quality protection. Ms. Frank stated that it should be a very informative program. Mr. Hayden said he has some really exciting new information to present.

Horizon Line Protection Map & Regulations for Zoning – Linda Frank

Ms. Frank met with Mike Ajello, the Washington Zoning Enforcement Officer, on November 4, 2015. She spoke to Dirk Sabin about a document he generated entitled *View Shed Thinning – An Approach to Preserve Ridgelines While Creating More Interesting Views*”. Mr. Sabin noted that there were color photographs of sites along with the document. Ms. Frank said she wanted to get this to Mike Ajello, Zoning Enforcement Officer. Ms. Sabin told the commissioners that he will work on a diagram with Sam of the Housatonic Valley Association. His opinion is that people like to look at diagrams and photographs.

Walker Brook

Ms. Frank and Ms. Payne went to the culvert and said the repair is moving forward. Ms. Frank told the members that the repair is a huge job. Randy Bernard will report further at the next CC meeting.

2014 TPOCD – No discussion at this time

New Preston Open Space

Ms. Corrigan has been working with the Town on the Management Plan. Ms. Payne is pushing to have the mowing done. On another topic, Ms. Frank brought up the invasive called Japanese Stiltgrass. She asked the members if anyone had a problem with this invasive and Mr. Sabin said that he does. He noted that the Stiltgrass is shallow rooted and generally easy to pull. It is spread by a number of means including lawn equipment, foot traffic, water movement, mulch, wildlife.

Consideration of the minutes

There was only one member present at this meeting who attended the September 2, 2015 meeting. Therefore, the minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting December 2, 2015.

Subcommittee Reports

## Cell Tower Update – The CT CEO of AT & T wrote to Mark Lyon to confirm that

## AT & T will add cell service to the Depot cell tower in the first quarter of 2016.

* 2015 Management Plan – Betsy Corrigan (see Other Business below).
* Annual Easement Monitoring – Going forward this will be handled by the Washington’s Land Use Department starting in the spring of 2016. Ms. Frank said that the commission needs to set a date to give Mike Ajello a tour of the areas to be monitored.
* Major Phragmites Infestation - All Habitat Update – The Town of Washington and Steep Rock phragmites remediation by All Habitat has been postponed until the spring of 2016 due to delays in submitting paper work to Inland Wetlands.

Other Business

Ms. Frank asked Mr. Sabin if he had any business to discuss at this meeting. Prior to this meeting Mr. Sabin briefly discussed the New Preston Management Plan with Betsy Corrigan and said that Mr. Sabin said that it is all under control. One of Ms. Corrigan’s comments was that it will evolve and Mr. Sabin agreed with that. One of the things he thought about was putting some beehives there because of the nice opens areas, sun and water source which bees like. The hives could be stationed away from the trail areas. He mentioned that

Tom Osbourne, the town Fire Marshal and Tree Warden, works with bee hives. Mr. Sabin knows someone who maintains hives. The commissioners thought this was a good idea and will wait until the next meeting to discuss further.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Frank asked if Conservation Commission members were attending The Washington Rotary Club’s Volunteer Recognition Reception on November 6, 2015 at the Washington Town Hall. Ms. Frank checked the list of past recipients of this award and Susan Payne has never received it. Members present expressed the unanimous opinion that Susan Payne would be a very deserving recipient of this award as she has spent many years of hard work and devotion to Washington’s conservation efforts. Ms. Frank encouraged the CC members to attend and vote.

As there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Frank adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk

November 10, 2015