Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### Washington Conservation Commission

#### Minutes

**December 3, 2014**

**5:00 PM**

Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Phil Markert, Diane Dupuis

Members Absent: None

Alternates Present: Dirk Sabin, Ann Quackenbos

Alternates Absent: Betsy Corrigan

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

5:10 PM

Chair, Susan Payne, called the meeting to order.

Consideration of the Minutes

The Conservation Commission Clerk distributed copies of the November 5, 2014 meeting minutes to commission members. Upon reviewing the minutes, a motion to accept the November 5, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Markert, seconded by Mr. Bernard, passed 5 – 0.

Zoning Regulations Recommendations – Regulations Update

Ms. Frank will be going before the Zoning Commission 7:30 PM December 15, 2014. The main goal is for Conservation and Zoning to work together. Regarding regulating views – It was expressed that this area should be intelligently and methodically approached. The Town of Washington is working toward regulating and protecting and not depriving residents of the town’s beautiful views. People move to Washington and stay because of its beauty.

Walker Brook Degradation Project

Mr. Sabin prepared a sketch with more detail. He passed around a map and indicated it is a work in progress. He showed the area on the map between Churchill and Upper Churchill where the road crosses Walker Brook saying it was the worst area (this is located mostly in New Milford). He and Dirk Sabin discussed Gambion technology and explained the process. Ms. Payne commented that there would be less impact on the fragile banks and said it was a great suggestion and well thought out. Mr. Bernard said the first step is to go to the Superintendent of Roads. A suggestion was made to try to include James Furlow, Land Use Enforcement Officer in New Milford who would have much to offer in this area. After that, the next step should be to identify the other bad areas and then get vendor drawings. The town could handle this project without a contractor. Ballpark figure would be $7,000 to $8000.00 each including labor and material. One suggestion was the possibility of forming a Walker Brook Road Committee.

Fracking Waste Ordinance Update

Town Attorney, David Miles reviewed the proposed ordinance and didn’t see any issues with it. The Board of Selectmen may make additional revisions at their next meeting. Carlos Canal anticipates the proposed ordinance coming before a Town Meeting in the near future. Mr. Canal will inform the Commission of those details. At that point the Conservation Commission can rally support for it.

Cell Tower Update

The pine tree cell tower at the new Town Garage site is up and waiting for the antenna.

There is nothing new to report on the 237 Roxbury Road tower. The current news is that a new technical report and application will be filed. Ms. Payne noted that the area where the tower is located is a high area from which one can look down right into the Depot.

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New Preston Open Space

Ms. Corrigan was not present at this meeting. Ms. Payne saw the area and told the commission what a great job Ms. Corrigan and her husband are doing and that the area is looking good.

Town Plan of Conservation & Development, Public Hearing November 13, 2014 Update

Ms. Payne read to the commission members a letter from Janet Hill. Ms. Payne indicated that the meeting minutes were very informative. There was some discussion on the meeting. Mr. Sabin asked if the Town was planning to take advantage of the Housatonic Valley Association’s database which has excellent mapping features.

Meeting Calendar for 2015

The Commission reviewed the calendar and determined it was acceptable. Ms. Payne signed.

Projects Review

132 Calhoun Street

Chris Charles spoke to Ms. Payne prior to the meeting regarding 132 Calhoun Street and its former owner, Paul Nussbaum. Mr. Charles reiterated that he has not seen any map based on the A2 Survey of the Conservation Easement recorded with the Washington Town Clerk. Ms. Payne will reach out to Mike Ajello, the Washington Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The Gunnery

Mike Ajello, Washington’s Zoning Enforcement Officer, provided Ms. Payne with a copy of the A-2 survey map and a copy of the Conditions of Approval Agreement document (approved 3/14/12) re the Gunnery’s athletic fields project. Currently, trees are being cleared and double silt fences are being erected to prevent run off. Work will continue through the winter in order to prepare for the construction start date of April 1, 2015.

279 New Milford Turnpike, 2-Lot Subdivision (Owners Henry & Susan Smith)

Ms. Payne showed commission members a Subdivision Layout & Site Development Plan dated 8/12/2014. A few comments and short discussion ensued.

Motion: To adjourn by Mr. Sabin.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:12 PM.

###### Submitted subject to approval,

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk December 10, 2014