**WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**BRYAN HALL PLAZA**

**WASHINGTON CT**

**MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2017**

 **5:00 PM** **UPPER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM**

 Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Randy Bernard, Tyler O’Hazo, Diane Dupuis

 Alternates Present: Dirk Sabin, Carrie Rowe

 Alternates Absent: Ann Quackenbos

 Staff: Janice Roberti

 Visitors: Tony Bedini, Dan Sherr, Steve Bartkus, Brenda Pape, Joslyn Pollack, Bill Pollock,

 Ms. Payne opened the meeting at 5:05 PM.

* Consideration of the Minutes – 2/1/17

 Members reviewed the minutes and made two corrections:

Page 1, Steep Rock Proposal re Johnson Farm, correct 2nd sentence to read “CC voted unanimously to support the acquisition of a 51 acre portion of the Johnson Farm …..”

Page 2, Washington Community Housing Trust, add the motion: To support the proposal for The Washington Community Trust, 181 New Milford Turnpike, 3 Lot Subdivision, to request any open-space set aside requirement be waived and move to recommend LISD rain gardens, drainage and some landscaping to buffer the roads. By Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Frank, passed 5 to 0.

 MOTION: To accept the February 1, 2017 minutes as amended. By Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Bernard

Passed 5 passed 5 to 0.

* New Preston Falls Conceptual Sketch Base Map – Dirk Sabin
* Survey & Plan
* History of the Falls and industry in the area
* DOT broken bridge at New Preston Falls Beautification Permit
* Tree clearing, invasives cleanup, public access project

Dirk Sabin brought a base map he produced from the survey provided by T. Michael Alex L.L.S. #15462 with locational references in color. He explained the base map and the numbered locational references:

1 – enlarge and improve parking 2 - replace foot bridge 3 – boardwalk and trail 4 – repair/replace wall

5 - thin Ash for view 6 – park lawn 7 – path and stairs 8 – research and restore ruins 9 – mill ruins 10 – ruin along the river 11 – falls and mill ruins 12 - river and mill ruins 13 - mill ruins

* *Preliminary Design Study New Preston Mill & Falls 5 East Shore Road dated 2/27/17 L-1*
* *Map Prepared for The Town of Washington Connecticut 5 East Shore Road Washington T. Michael Alex, L.L.S. #15462August , 1995*
* *The Town of Washington 5 East Shore Road Village of New Preston Washington, Connecticut*

 *T. Michael Alex L.L.S. August, 1993, #15462*

Stephen Bartkus, Curator - Gunn Memorial Library and Museum. Mr. Bartkus provided some history on the falls area, the ruins, the Cogswell Tavern. He recommended reading a book entitled *Empire over the Dam* which is available at the Gunn Library. Ms. Payne asked if the CC could connect with him again as the project progresses and he replied that he would be pleased.

Bill and Joslyn Pollock - Arbor Services of CT. Material and dead trees should be removed from the watercourse in order for the water to travel properly, contribute to the view and prevent blockage of the culvert. The removal method should be considered in order not to damage anything that is deemed desirable. From the Pollock’s standpoint they want to maintain and grow all desirable natives. This part of the project is enjoyable - making good choices and it is not insurmountable.

The discussion continued regarding the process:

* the end goal - important to outline a plan, do some research, get organized
* follow up with merchants in the village to get their input and perhaps get involved in the New Preston Village Days and other area promotions
* contact the New Preston Women’s Club as a venue for a village info meeting
* repairing the bridge – may need an engineer to examine it. DOT not giving Washington this piece of land. Mr. Sabin said he has a contact who might be able to assist.

* Tree Cutting Regulations

 Ms. Frank is continuing her work on language.

* Extension of Woodville Business District

Mr. O’Hazo updated the members on his research work and said that when he asked about it they said Zoning is looking at it and looks like it’s a reversion back to something that was in the past. He commented on his belief that proposed change would restore the Woodville business district to its original boundaries. It may even be extended a bit. This is consistent with the POCD, which calls for redefining our village centers and assessing the potential for future activities.

Mr. Sabin said that the original boundaries were reviewed in detail when the district was revised several years ago including topography present, proximity to the Shepaug, lack of real village context to grow from beyond the area ultimately revised around the White Horse ?, Community Table etc. with Grandpa Snazzy’s going out further. Ms. Frank suggested that when this comes up on the Zoning Agenda, CC should be there.

* WEC June 24, 2017 Environment Expo – Update on Plans.

Ms. Rowe provided the details of the Washington Environment Council Environment Expo to be held on June 24, 2017. The Expo is open to all towns and is family oriented. The Future Now Expo is a family friendly day long free event and is open to all communities. People attending can speak face to face with exhibitors who have a commitment to saving our planet, go to a lecture, a documentary film, and participate in a workshop. There will be activity tents, live music, and food.

* LID Regulations and Horizon Line/Viewshed Protection

The report from Sean Hayden is still pending. Ms. Frank obtained a copy of Plainville Connecticut’s Low Impact Development and Stormwater Management Design Manual. Ms. Frank and Ms. Payne will read the manual.

* Phragmities Eradication at New Preston Open Space

The project is stalled from 2016. Mr. Bernard will contact All Habitat. The town has lost a year as the filing and permit process takes a lot of time.

* Lake Environmental Issues – Ann Quackenbos

No report for this meeting

***Subcommittee Reports***

Cell Tower Report

Ms. Payne stated that per the Board of Selectmen February 23, 2017 meeting minutes the Siting Council has approved AT&T’s request to change antennae on the cell tower located on the Town’s property on Blackville Road.

Other Business

Referral from DEEP/Application by Lake Waramaug Country Club for Request for Reauthorization under the General Permit for Diversion of Water for Consumptive Use. This is an application that the Lake Waramaug Country Club sent to the DEEP to request permission to draw water from the Lake Waramaug for use at the country club. Mr. Bernard offered to review the application.

Since there was no further business to discuss Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM

Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk