Town of Washington

Bryan Memorial Town Hall

Washington Depot CT 06794

**Washington Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**April 4, 2018**

5:00 PM Upper Level Meeting Room

Members Present: Diane Dupuis, Linda Frank, Susan Payne

Members Absent: Randy Bernard, Tyler O’Hazo

Alternates Present: Ann Quackenbos

Alternates Absent: Dirk Sabin, Kathy Bennett

Staff: Janice Roberti

Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM and seated

Ann Quackenbos for Diane Dupuis.

Consideration of the Minutes- March 14, 2018

The minutes of March 14, 2018 were considered. There were no corrections.

MOTION: To accept the March 14, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

By Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed, passed 4 to 0.

Schedule bus tour of Town properties/easements that CC oversees and areas of concerns

Ms. Payne is checking the Senior Bus availability to take a bus trip in May. The purpose is to look at the properties that the CC is responsible for, view the easements that need to be monitored and go around the lake to look at what is going on. This will give the CC a better sense of where everything is. A trip to New Preston can be arranged in a separate trip.

When the Gunnery was going through the process of getting approval for the South Street playing field, the CC conducted a site visit May 5, 2015 and made some recommendations. There has not been an update from the Gunnery since then. The Gunnery was asked to monitor the area and plant along the macadam to hide the black chain link fence. They have monitored but CC hasn’t heard back re the chain link fence. Also, no evergreens have been planted. The CC discussed whether to follow up with the Gunnery.

Planning Subdivision Regulations

All members need to be present to review the purpose of open space set asides. This will be discussed at the May 2nd meeting.

New Preston Falls – Earth Day

Joanna Seitz recently asked Ms. Payne if the CC wants to do anything to promote the NP Falls project on Earth Day Sunday April 22nd. Ms. Payne will check back with Ms. Seitz to discuss.

Delay of Demolition proposal by the Historic District Commission

No updates from the HDC as of this meeting

Phragmities Removal by All Habitat (Permit for 6/29/17 – 12/31/19)

Ms. Frank spoke mentioned the situation with Harold Birch of 94 New Milford Turnpike wherein Mr. Birch indicated that All Habitat was working on his property in 2017. After researching this it Mr. Birch was correct. The confusion has been cleared up and all parties are satisfied. There was a short discussion about putting in a trail into the area being treated by All Habitat since treatment could continue for approx. five (5) years.

Morris Low Impact Sustainable Development & Storm Water Management Design Manual

Ms. Payne commented that the manual is a very impressive document. She circulated the 238 page manual for members’ perusal. Below is the link should anyone be interested in viewing it online.

<http://northwesthillscog.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Morris-LISD-Manual-FINAL-1-1.pdf>

The Commissions discussed that if Washington decides to develop the same type of manual perhaps the Town could adopt language from other towns that would be pertinent to Washington. The Morris manual is the Town’s own project.

Tree Cutting Regulations

Diane Dupuis distributed hard copies and provided links relating to tree regulations. Members had a long discussion regarding regulations, provided opinions and agreed that pursuing this was worthwhile. Several members expressed the opinion that “the simpler the better.”

* Tree Removal Regulations by state:

<http://www.treeremoval.com/tree-removal-regulations-by-state/#.Ws0B1WeG8dW>

* What’s the Future for Private Tree regulation?

<https://actreesnews.org/alliance-for-community-trees-news/whats-future-private-tree-regulation/>

* Town of Ossining Tree Protection:

<https://ecode360.com/8410336>

* Tree Protection Laws in Westchester:

<http://www.ellahhh.net/sites/default/files/uploads/resourcelibrary/Tree_Protection_Laws_in_Westchester.pdf>

Additional Working model

<http://ncforestservice.gov/Urban/pdf/treeProtection.pdf>

Conservation Minutes April 4, 2018 Page 2

AT & T and Verizon

Ms. Dupuis brought up the subject of AT & T and Verizon jointly constructing hundreds of new cell towers across the US. 5G has already been approved at all federal levels. The Siting Council does not have jurisdiction because whomever owns the poles/rights-of-way has jurisdiction. Ms. Dupuis said we should keep an eye on this and down the road the CC may resurrect the Cell Tower Committee.

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

Submitted subject to approval

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Clerk April 11, 2018

Conservation Minutes April 4, 2018 Page 3