**Town of Washington Conservation Commission**

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

####

Minutes June 1, 2016

 5:00 PM Upper Level Meeting Room

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

Members Absent: None

Alternates Present: Betsy Corrigan

Alternates Absent: Dirk Sabin, Ann Quackenbos

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Others: Attorney James Kelly, Dr. Andrew Bazos,

Erica Ryland, Sustainability Committee

Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Consideration of the Minutes

The members considered the regular meeting minutes for May 4, 2016. There were no revisions.

MOTION: To accept the May 4, 2016 minutes as written.

By Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed 5 to 0.

Tinker Hill proposed Conservation Easement – Attorney James Kelly,

 - Dr. Andrew Bazos

Discussion included:

* Pictures of the site visit by Ms. Frank were handed out.
* Ms. Payne asked the CC members present for their opinions on accepting the easement.
* Ms. Frank read the Conservation Easement Guideline to the group.
* Each member provided comments as to whether or not to accept the easement.
* There was a question about whether the Conservation could accept the easement based on certain conditions such as a landscaping plan.
* There were several opinions expressed stating that the Conservation Commission could not take the easement the way it is currently.
* The Commission was unable to make a decision at this meeting.

Ms. Payne said that some of the ideas expressed at the meeting would be appropriate to run by the Town Council.

Attorney Kelly stated that this is one of those situations where there is no baseline. Jim Kelly expressed the opinion that it would be appropriate for him and Dr. Bazos to come back with a baseline “plus” which is a baseline of what is there now and then a

re-planting plan.

Eagle Scout Project Update – Brendon Vejseli, Gunnery Student

Brendon Vejseli, was unable to attend this meeting. Ms. Payne will reach out to Steve Wadleton, Vice Chair, Inland Wetlands Chair to get an update.

Ms. Payne did check out the knotweed situation at the Riverwalk and the primary school yard. There is a big stretch of knotweed that has been removed. No one is certain who cleared that area.

Ingrassia Subdivision Update – Susan Payne

This proposal is being addressed at the June 1, 2016 Planning Commission. There are wetlands in both the northwest and northeast corners of the property.  The northwest corner will definitely be preserved in a conservation easement. Concerns were expressed by the members present that the northeast corner will not be preserved and another concern that there could be possible encroachment on this area. There is a letter on file for a proposal regarding a mixed offer of conservation easement and fee in “lieu of” listing what the applicant is offering.

Phragmities Eradication Progress – Randy Bernard

At the April 21, 2016 IW Commission Meeting, Mr. Bernard was advised that a DEEP permit is required. The IW Commission told Mr. Bernard that since the application was received on 3/9/16, the 65 day time period for the IW to act had not expired. At the May 11, 2016 IW meeting, it was noted by the IW that information on the DEEP form had to be corrected and that the Conservation Commission had requested an extension of up to 65 days.

If CC gets a DEEP permit then the work Conservation does is an

as-of-right application. In all scenarios, it is mandatory that the CC get a DEEP permit. As of the date of this meeting Mr. Bernard has not heard back from the DEEP. He expects that it will take some time. Once CC hears from the DEEP, we have to make the application again as an as-of-right application.

Regarding the actual eradication process, All Habitat expects that 30% of the phragmities will be eradicated. The eradication process in an ongoing management of this invasive.

DOT broken bridge at New Preston Falls

There is no news yet from the DOT regarding the broken bridge.

Town Streetlights Project – Linda Frank and Ann Quackenbos

Work in progress.

Lake Environmental Issues – Ann Quackenbos

No report for this meeting.

2014 TPOCD Review Items Assigned to CC– Erica Ryland, Sustainability

 Committee/Planning Commission

Ms. Ryland distributed a document entitled “2014 POCD Action Items Environmental Sustainability Sphere” which listed action items assigned to the Washington Conservation Commission. Ms. Ryland stated that the POCD provides a clearer vision of why Washington needs to move forward with these sustainability initiatives. She said rather than trying to replicate sustainability (things that are currently going on around the town) it would be best to bring this plan to those who have the expertise. The Sustainability Committee could be helpful by keeping an eye on all the initiatives and if needed could provide support in different forms if needed.

Ms. Ryland also advised the Commission on what other groups are doing with respect to the POCD and in conclusion offered her assistance.

Commission members reviewed and discussed each item, asking questions and providing input.

Scenic Road Designation/Portions of New Preston Hill and Findley Roads

The Planning Commission asked that the Conservation Commission to review a Scenic Road Designation application by Jeffrey Coploff and provide any input that would be helpful in the consideration of this application. A public hearing was scheduled for the evening of June 1, 2016. After reviewing the documents forwarded to CC by Planning, the Commission was in support of the application and gave their full approval.

New Preston Open Space – 2016 Management Plan – Betsy Corrigan

Although Ms. Corrigan spent much time and effort on creating a very clear and easy to follow map, the mowing crew did not follow the instructions on her map.

2016 New Preston Businesses/Residents Awareness Campaign – Phil Markert

Mr. Markert said he is making progress. He called on another business and is developing thoughts on his findings. A key factor in this process is the age of the proprietor(s) and this usually leads businesses to change according to their audience.

Since there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti

Conservation Commission Clerk