Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### Washington Conservation Commission

#### Minutes

**June 6, 2018**

**5:00 PM** **Upper Level Meeting Room**

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

Members Absent: Randy Bernard

Alternates Present: Catherine Rawson

Alternates Absent: Katherine Bennett, Dirk Sabin

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

5:30 PM

Ms. Payne, Chair, called the meeting to order, following a bus tour of Town easements, properties and West Shore Road. Sean Hayden, Executive Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, joined the tour at West Shore Road and talked about the impact of storm water runoff and ways to manage it to protect the water quality of the Lake.

**Consideration of the Minutes**

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for May 2, 2018.

**Motion:** To accept the May 2, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as written. By Ms. Rawson, seconded by Mr. O’Hazo, passed 5 to 0.

##### The Greenway Update

##### The Greenway was a Conservation Commission initiative began in 2000.

##### Ms. Payne updated the members:

* The Gunnery is tidying up/replanting the Eagle Scout project on the river’s edge of the River Walk, and the Eagle Scout sign will be re-installed.
* Steep Rock is interested in helping train volunteers for trail maintenance of the Town Greenway.
* Mark Lyon stated the Town would help.

##### New Preston Falls Project Update

Ms. Payne met with Bill Pollock of Arbor Services last week. Mr. Pollack provided the CC with an estimate of $5000.00 to remove additional dead trees, remove saplings that are growing on top of and inside the foundation and to stabilize other trees in order to prevent toppling and damage.

Ms. Payne also contacted Tony Bedini and suggested the Town look at the iron fence at the Falls. Mr. Bedini said the Town, with funds from the Village Improvement Society, will either re-paint it or re-build the fence and will make it child safe. The CC will follow up.

MOTION: To hire Bill Pollack, Arbor Tree Services, for $5000.00 to finish removing dead trees, to remove saplings growing on top of and out of the foundation and to do some tree stabilization work.

By Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. O’Hazo, passed 5 to 0.

**Cricket Valley Power Plant**

The commissioners discussed the meeting held in Kent regarding The Cricket Valley Power Plant work underway in Dover NY. The plant is scheduled to open in 2020. Ms. Payne forwarded a letter written by Wendy Murphy of the Kent Conservation Commission (KCC) which asked for assistance in bringing the public and state authorities attention to the Cricket Valley Energy Center (CVEC). The letter discussed the potential of the power plant significantly impacting the environment in Western Connecticut due to its size and closeness geographically. As an example, the letter stated that Kent and Sherman are four (4) to five (5) miles in distance from the plant. Toxic waste materials emitted by the CVEC via three 300-foot stacks will drift on the prevailing winds 24 hours a day toward towns in close proximity beginning in 2020.

Several of the commissioners stated that CC should work with the State of CT and start talking to senators.

Ms. Payne and Ms. Frank met with Selectman Mark Lyon last week.

There will be a joint meeting of NW CT Conservation Commissions in July.

##### Community Day – June 9, 2018

Ms. Payne said she will attend and represent the Washington Conservation Commission.

Ms. Payne approached Selectman Lyon about the possibility of the Conservation Commission receiving some funds from the sale of Pavilion. The funds would support the New Preston Falls Project.

###### Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk June 13, 2018