Washington Conservation Commission

**June 7, 2017**

**Minutes**

**5:00 p.m**. **Land Use Meeting Room**

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

**Alternates Present:** Dirk Sabin, Carrie Rowe, Ann Quackenbos

**Members Absent:** Randy Bernard

**Staff Present:** Janice Roberti

**Others:** Stephen Solley, James Dobson

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**Seated:** Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Tyler O’Hazo, Dirk Sabin (Alternate)

## Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the May 3, 2017 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

**Motion:** To accept the May 3, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted, by Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed by 5-0

**Washington Environmental Council Expo June 24, 2017 Update – Carrie Rowe**

#### Plans for the Expo being held in the Washington Depot Village from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on June 24, 2017 are in the final planning stages. The plans for the programs, workshops, children’s activities, vendors, exhibitors, food stands and live music are complete. The Washington Conservation Commission will have a table with information on the exciting work in progress cleaning and restoring the Historic New Preston Falls.

#### Subdivision Application /Dobson/195, 200 Church Hill Road/3 Lot Sub – James Dobson

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#### The Washington Planning Commission submitted an application for the above to CC requesting the Commission review and comment. The application was scheduled to be received at the 6/7/17 Planning meeting. Janet Hill provided the CC with:

#### “Three Lot Subdivision Description”, “Property Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan” and “Site Development Feasibility Plan”.

Brian Neff, P. E. informed Janet Hill that the proposed open space is 195 Church Hill Road combined with a fee in lieu of additional open space. Neither draft conservation easement language nor a written open space proposal has been submitted yet. Commission members examined the plans, asked questions and all agreed that the CC would support the project.

#### MOTION: To support the June 5, 2017 Subdivision Application /James Dobson/195, 200 Church Hill Road/3 Lot Subdivision. By Mr. Sabin, seconded by Ms. Frank, passed 5 to 0.

#### New Preston Falls Enhancement Project

#### History – Stephen Solley

#### Ms. Payne invited Mr. Stephen Solley to the meeting. Mr. Solley, who owns and operates a farm with his brother in the town, is very knowledgeable about the history of the NP Falls area. He displayed interesting historical photos, described in extensive details the history of the mills, artifacts that have been found, history of the stones used at the site and the interesting fact that the grist stone was purchased in France.

#### Mr. Solley was a wealth of information and it was a real enjoyable and informative session. He suggested that the Town secure the services of a state archeologist to go through the area before any deep digging is performed for the purpose of salvaging additional artifacts.

**Informational Material for the Public - CC Member Survey– Linda Frank**

Ms. Frank distributed a survey asking members various questions related to visuals that could be placed in the NPF area.

* current or historical view of the Falls?
* text – how much relating to Conservation’s plans for the area or should CC concentrate on the history of the site?
* public access areas – specific signage or more general?
* plaques or similar giving credit to people who helped with the project – where to be placed?

Mr. Sabin stated that it might be nice to have an interpretive exhibit dedicated to the history of New Preston and Marbledale industries

**Beautification Permit – Update from Mark Lyon**

Selectman Lyon has submitted the permit to the DOT and it is under review.

**Bridge Repair Status –Working with the DOT** – Dirk Sabin

The CC needs to find out what is required by the DOT for bonding and insurance. The bridge is on their property so the DOT will regulate whatever is done. Mr. Sabin suggested that the Selectmen help the CC regarding communications with DOT since The Highway Dept. works with them on highway projects on a regular basis. A face to face meeting with the DOT is in the best interest of all concerned. We want to keep it simple but want to satisfy the DOT’s requirements.

Mr. Sabin said he would contact the Board of Selectmen. Later in the NP Falls project he told members that the CC will have to submit an Inland Wetlands application.

**New Preston Open Space – CT Audubon Visit** – Susan Payne

Ms. Payne met with **Corrie Folsom-O’Keefe who is with the CT Audubon as the** Important Bird Area (IBA) Program Coordinator. Ms. Payne asked Corrie to visit the Open Space to see what our bird population is and if the NP Open Space would qualify as an IBA/Important Bird Area. Ms. Payne will keep CC updated.

**Tree Cutting - Ann Quackenbos**

Nothing new to report for this meeting

**LID Regulations and Horizon Line/Viewshed Protection – Linda Frank**

Ms. Payne spoke to Soil Scientist Sean Hayden and told the Commission that he is leaving the Northwest Conservation District to become the Executive Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force. Mr. Hayden’s 225 page LID Regulations Report is being reviewed by NWHCOG/Northwest Hills Council of Govt’s.

**Lake Environmental Issues – Ann Quackenbos**

Nothing new to report for this meeting

**Phragmities Eradication – Randy Bernard**

Nothing new to report for this meeting

**Motion:** To adjourn by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm

Submitted subject to approval,

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk Date