Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### **Washington Conservation Commission**

#### **Minutes July 5, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Diane Dupuis, Randy Bernard

Alternates Present: Ann Quackenbos, Dirk Sabin

Alternates Absent: Carrie Rowe

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM. Ms. Payne seated Dirk Sabin for Diane Dupuis

and Ann Quackenbos for Randy Bernard.

Minutes of June7, 2017

The members reviewed the June 7, 2017 minutes and found no errors.

MOTION: To accept the June 7, 2017 minutes as written. By Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Sabin passed 5 to 0.

New Preston Falls Enhancement Project Update

* Status of Beautification Permit - The permit has been approved and will be sent to Selectman Lyon by mail.
* Arbor Services – Bill Pollock, owner, submitted the quote for Phase II of the New Preston Falls Enhancement Project regarding tree, shrub and invasives removal. Mr. Pollack stated that great care must be taken so as not to disturb the ruins. Mark Lyon will review the proposal and go to the area with Kevin Smith and a member of Conservation who is involved in the work.
* New Preston Falls Photo/Poster Project

Linda Frank presented a beautiful poster of New Preston Falls. The Conservation Commission was very appreciative of the work involved in the creation of a beautiful poster showcasing the beauty of the area. The members thanked Kelly Durkin and Kerry Ann Mullen, wife of Commissioner Tyler O’Hazo, for creating the poster as a beautiful tribute to the Falls.

* Foot Bridge

Dirk Sabin will follow up on the bridge but wants to wait and see where we are when the Arbor Services work is complete.

* Informational Meeting

Ms. Payne asked if the CC should have an informational meeting for the public at New Preston Falls. One suggestion was The Smithy. Mr. Sabin wants to develop a formal site plan first.

Phragmities in New Preston Open Space Project Update

The project is stalled from 2016 due to the backlog of permits handled by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This agency is short staffed which makes the process long.

Tree cutting

Diane Dupuis attended a meeting held with Eversource and the Board of Selectman. Mr. Hochberg and Scott Weaver from the Lake were there. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what trees were being taken down, what trees will be left. An Eversource botanist was present. Ms. Dupuis has detailed information.

WEC June 24 Enviromental Expo

The Expo was a huge success, turn out was great and positive feedback was received. The Conservation Commission would like to coordinate with the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) on tree planting in town.

Lake Environmental Issues

Ms. Quackenbos stated that the Waramaug Task Force has decided not to use herbicides in the Lake. She stated that during the LWT’s annual shoreline survey to evaluate the presence of invasive plants it was revealed that there is an alarming increase in the number, size and density of sites with pondweed.

Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) – Document/Map

Ms. Payne distributed copies of a COG document entitled “A Regional Plan of Conservation and Development 2017 DRAFT Goals, Policies, and Actions” and another document entitled “Conservation Focus Areas

Northwest Hills Council of Governments Region’. The CC will receive a map that zooms in on Washington at a later time. The CC can comment in the fall.

Review proposed revisions to Zoning Section 17 – Nonconforming lots

Ms. Payne distributed copies of the proposed revisions to the Washington Zoning Regulations, Section 17 Nonconforming Lots. There will be a public hearing August 7, 2017. Since the proposed regulations are very complicated, it was decided at this meeting that the members should devote the August 2, 2017 meeting to discuss the proposal in order to be prepared for the hearing. Janet Hill, Land Use Administrator, told Ms. Payne that if she receives any advanced comments, she will circulate them.

Subcommittee Reports & Assignments

New Preston Open Space

In June, Ms. Payne met with **Corrie Folsom-O’Keefe,** Important Bird Area (IBA) Program Coordinator, with Audubon Connecticut. Ms. Folsom-O’Keefe sent Ms. Payne an astonishing list of over 35 species of birds. She stated that it was a beautiful property with great potential.   She will look at how close it is to the IBA boundary and plans to bring it up with her committee at their meeting in the fall.

Submitted subject to approval,

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk Date