Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### **Washington Conservation Commission**

#### **Minutes September 6, 2017**

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

Alternates Present: Ann Quackenbos, Dirk Sabin, Carrie Rowe

Alternates Absent: Carrie Rowe

Others Present: Wayne Hileman, Planning Commission Chair

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM.

Ms. Payne distributed copies of the Zoning Public Hearing Minutes for August 7, 2017. The public hearing meeting was held regarding Revision of Zoning Regulations, Signs for Town Landmark Sites, Expansion of Woodville and Depot Business Districts, Updating of Section 17, etc.

Minutes of August 2, 2017

The members reviewed the August 2, 2017 minutes and found no errors.

MOTION: To accept the August 2, 2017 minutes. By Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Frank,

passed 5to 0.

Review of NHCOG Draft Regional Plan of Conservation & Development 2017-2027

Guest Wayne Hileman, chair of Planning, reviewed with the Conservation Commission comments on the draft Regional Plan of Conservation and Development he would present to the Planning Commission at its meeting following the Conservation Commission meeting.  Discussion followed.

Members of the Conservation Commission will send their comments on this plan to Ms. Payne on Monday 9/11 and Ms. Payne will summarize and circulate to members before submitting them to the Northwest Hills Council of Government in time for the 9/15/17 deadline.

New Preston Falls – Susan Payne

* Ms. Payne asked Dirk Sabin what the status was regarding the site survey. Mr. Sabin said that it will be completed this month.
* On August 4th, First Friday, J. McLaughlin sponsored the New Preston Falls Project by donating a percentage of the sales from that night to CC. Ms. Payne will confirm the amount donated.
* Ms. Payne was scheduled to attend The Washington Business Association meeting on August 17th but there was a full agenda. Ms. Payne will attend another time. Ms. Payne did drop off posters.

Phragmites Eradication by All Habitat in New Preston Open Space – Randy Bernard

Mr. Bernard wrote to All Habitat and asked for a schedule and is waiting to hear back. Inland Wetlands approved The Town of Washington’s Application #IW-17-33 on August 23, 2017 for herbicide application. Janet Hill in Land Use explained the permit process. When Inland Wetlands permits are issued to the property owner (in this case, the Town of Washington), a copy is sent by certified mail to that owner within the time period required by state statute, or in this case, hand delivered.  Agents or contractors may request that a copy be sent to them.

Ms. Hill is sending Mr. Bernard a copy.

Eagle Scout Project – Susan Payne

There was a sign that was placed at the area along the Shepaug River where Gunnery Student, Brendon Vejseli’ s, project of removing invasives and planting native wetland perennials occurred. Unfortunately the plantings were done too late and most plants died so the project failed. Ms. Payne removed the sign in August and contacted Mr. Vejseli letting him know where it was stored. During this process Ms. Payne learned that the Gunnery’s Green Club was supposed to be maintaining the area. She contacted Gunnery faculty member Steven Bailey who said that the Green Club will re-plant and weed. She will meet with Mr. Bailey and if the area gets reestablished and takes hold, the CC will put the sign back up.

Easement Monitoring- Linda Frank

The Conservation Monitoring notebooks, maps, forms etc. were turned over to Mike Ajello in Land Use. Ms. Frank will send Mr. Ajello an email to schedule an orientation. The best time to do the monitoring is when the leaves are off. Ms. Payne reminded the Commissioners that at the April 2015 meeting with Mark Lyon, Mike Ajello and Janet Hill, it was decided that this is part of Mr. Ajello’ s job. BOS recently voted to assign this function to Mr. Ajello.

Tree Cutting Regulations – Diane Dupuis

Ms. Dupuis researched and discovered that there were only about half a dozen states of the 50 that have regulations but most of those relate to 6” or wider trees. The CC was looking for more specific information so she will do further research. Mr. Sabin added that the regulations are pretty well geared toward logging. He added that no town has done this. A resident can go to the Town and get a logging permit. This is common in most towns but this doesn’t deal with the CC’s concerns on tree cutting regulations. As a point of interest, Mr. Sabin added that Westchester County is an area that has strong regulations.

Town Tree Arboretum – Dirk Sabin

No new specific information but Mr. Sabin did express his opinion that it would be nice to start regularly planting trees. This topic will be kept active on the agenda.

Subcommittee Reports and Assignments

* New Preston Open Space. Ms. Payne said that the Town has been keeping up with the mowing.
* Cell Tower – No cell tower activity

Other Business

Carrie Rowe

Alternate on the Commission submitted her resignation at this meeting. All the Commissioners wished her well and will proceed to research other people interested in becoming an alternate.

Town Greenway

Ms. Payne met with Lori Brandt, Executive Director of Steep Rock, as they would like to assist CC and the Town in maintaining the Greenway. Details to be forthcoming.

Submitted subject to approval,

Janice Roberti September 12, 2017

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Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk Date