

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES
July 10, 2019

RECEIVED:
JUL 15, 2019 at 11:35 AM
Sheila M Anson
Washington Town Clerk

5:15 P.M.

Bryan Memorial Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Ms. Branson, Ms. Dupuis, Mr. O'Hazo,

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Sabin, Ms. Rawson, Mr. Conroy

RESIDENTS PRESENT: Mr. Solley

CLERK: Ms. Buell

Due to the clerk not being notified to the relocation of the meeting the minutes will start when the clerk turned on the recorder approximately 5:30 p.m.

Tree Cutting regulations:

The commission had a discussion with Mr. Solley, chairman of the Zoning Commission, regarding their observations of tree cutting going on in town currently. They expressed their concern about clear cutting on private property. The commission talked about water runoff and habitat loss when clear cutting is done. They think tree cutting on private property has to be regulated by an ordinance. They had a brief discussion about who would enforce the tree ordinance if passed by a town vote. They reviewed the draft, tree ordinance proposal, Mr. Matthews created, they spoke about the complexity of the draft. They reviewed the Kent, CT regulations which are much easier for property owners to understand. They would like to seek out legal advice to see what scope of authority a town has to regulate tree cutting on private property. They would like to find an attorney that has experience with land use regulations, such as Attorney Linda Francois.

The town of Seymour, CT tried to have a tree ordinance passed but it was overwhelmingly defeated. The commission is worried that if the ordinance is too complex it will not pass a town vote.

Other Business:

24:28 Ms. Branson asked if the commission could discuss other business at this point. The commission agreed.

The commission talked about the new trend of glamping, glamorous camping. They spoke about the two permit applications that have been received from residents, wanting permits for glamping. Mr. Solley explained that a deck is installed and a tent is put on the deck to accommodate the glamping customers. They spoke about the concerns that the neighboring property owners have shared with them, such as parking issues. Mr. Solley advised the commission that Glamping is not a permitted use anywhere within our districts regulations, which would be prohibited. There is a special meeting coming up to address the new trend of Glamping and how it should be handled with in the towns zoning department. They questioned what factors should be considered when an application is received, such as lot size, distance from neighbors shared driveway and sanitation.

Rabbit Hill Wetlands and Vernal Pools:

37:43 This was tabled until the Fall.

Solar Panel regulations:

37:52 The commission would like to invite Mr. Furse to the September meeting to receive more information about solar panels. The commission had a brief discussion about a permit that was applied for on Rabbit hill road.

Cell Tower Warren:

39:10 Ms. Dupuis didn't have an update at this time.

Old Business

There is no Conservation meeting scheduled for August, the next meeting will be September 4, 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Sabin to adjourn the meeting at 6:12p.m. and seconded by Ms. Branson, Passed 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Buell

Conservation Commission Clerk

July 12, 2019

sbfpayne@charter.net

From: sbfpayne@charter.net
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2019 7:58 AM
To: 'Karen Buell'
Subject: RE: cc meeting

Importance: High

Notes from start of mtg until you found us outside 😊

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All Commission members present; no seating of Alternates. One guest: Nick Solley

June 5 Minutes approved; moved by Dirk. Unanimous.

New Preston Falls project: Dirk will submit a new Inland Wetlands permit as DOT bridge is now being replaced rather than repaired. After IW permit received, Dirk will submit project to Zoning. Maintenance: Arbor Services has cut back plant growth on foundations and tops of the extant mill sites. One dead ash needs to be removed; Arbor Services to be contacted.

Western CT Clean Air Action group report by Linda Frank. 5 out of 7 Air Quality Monitors now in place. Ours is on a residence on School St as too complicated to mount on Primary School. Once construction at Shepaug High School, our AQ1 will be located there.

Tree Regs- discussion with Nick Solley, chr of Zoning - let me see what you got.

Rabbit Hill Wetlands/Vernal Pool discussion tabled until Sept. mtg.

Solar Panels: Invite Ray Furse to Sept. Mtg.

No Aug mtg. Next mtg Sept. 4.

Susie

Susan Payne, Chr of CC

From: Karen Buell <kbuell@washingtonct.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2019 11:35 AM
To: sbfpayne@charter.net
Subject: cc meeting

Good Morning,

Can you please send me the notes that you took last night?

I'm speaking with Sheila about how to handle the motions and minutes from last night's meeting considering I started without a clerk being present.

I have to check to see what is legal for me to include.

Thanks,

Karen Buell
Land Use Clerk