**Town of Washington**

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

####  Washington Conservation Commission

Minutes January 6, 2016 Upper Level Meeting Room

Members Present: Susan Payne, Phil Markert, Randy Bernard, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis

Alternates Present: Ann Quackenbos

Alternates Absent: Dirk Sabin, Betsy Corrigan

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Others: Mark Lyon, First Selectman, Richard Kleinberg, Lake Waramaug Association

Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and welcomed

Mark Lyon, First Selectman and Richard Kleinberg, Lake Waramaug Association.

Update on Town Projects – Selectman Mark Lyon

Dam at Lake Waramaug

The valve is working as well as it has been for many years. Engineers who have been out there recommend a new valve since the current valve is approximately 100 years old. There will be a Special Town Meeting Thursday January 21, 2016 at 7:30 PM to request the appropriation of funds from the fund balance to the 2015-2016 capital fund to cover engineering services relating to the Lake Waramaug dam. Two engineering firms have inspected the dam and estimated a cost of $39,500-$48,500 for multiple permits, engineered drawings and specifications.

Walker Brook Road at Chapin Rd. – Culvert Replacement Project

WMC Engineering (WMC) is waiting for the final OK from DEEP. Mr. Lyon met there with representatives from fisheries, Nick Nichols and a representative from HVA. The issue is that there is a big pool at the out flow of the culvert which is caused by the fact that the water plunges out. DEEP doesn’t like to see this but on the positive side, it has created a trout pool. WMC had a similar situation in Kent. WMC will preserve the pool. The road will have to be closed for a period of time.

Proposed Culvert Replacement on Blackville Road near Sabbaday Lane

There will be another DOT public hearing at the Washington Town Hall on March 2, 2016 (snow date March 9, 2016). ZBA has heard the application to change two lots that would be affected by the project to be “more” non-conforming.

Town Mowing of Knotweed

The equipment we have tried to mow with in the past has been ineffective. A sickle bar mower,a bigger heavier piece of equipment, will be used going forward. He would like to do periodic cutting as it emerges and will try to get that mowing done two or three times a year.

Old Town Garage

Mr. Lyon said there has been progress on clean up. The space behind the back of the new highway garage has been cleaned out and items are being removed as used with nothing replacing them. Work has been done cleaning up the heavily used little parking area and has made a request to install another street light there.

Solar Panels

The Garden Club has a fund to use for their purposes and have proposed two uses of the fund for Mr. Lyon’s review – work on the plaza and the installation of solar panels. Mr. Lyon is working with the energy company that did the town’s LED lighting at the new highway garage. This company is looking into a solar panel installation that would be located at the highway garage. There are a number of different avenues that can be taken. One option is that the company who installs the panels guarantees a certain rate for

20 years and the theory is that they sell the excess electricity to pay their expenses. The Town is looking at another proposal as well.

Cell Tower

The locators have been installed. Mr. Lyon said the last official written word from AT&T was that the completion date is the end of the 1st quarter 2016. He is not anticipating a date before then.

Beautification of Bryan Memorial Plaza

Mr. Lyon met with the representative from TPA Consulting They are putting together their preliminary thoughts for the plaza projects. They had some ideas that far exceeded the town’s budget so Mr. Lyon asked to see what options they could put together that would stay within the town’s budget. The consultants did put together an excellent package regarding the history of the plaza and Mr. Lyon will forward that on to Ms. Payne.

Economic Development Committee

Mr. Lyon stated that the town has parted ways with its consulting firm Goman and York. The Committee met January 6, 2016. The Committee is also going to meet with Connecticut Economic Resource Committee and they will come out in April do two hour presentation on how towns can foster economic development. What is really needed is to hire an Economic Development Director tasked with guiding and formulating policies and strategies. Mr. Lyon spoke about a company called www.Calendar.biz which is a website which would be linked to the WBA website and the Washington website. The Selectmen will review and then it would go before the Board of Finance. The idea is to have a community wide calendar where organizations in the town could post their events. It would be tried for a period of 12 months to see how much use it is getting. There is a way to track how many people are using it by the number of hits the site gets. They are also looking at improved signage within the town – signs to New Preston, to the Depot, at the end of Rt. 47.

THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED. MR. LYON’S FULL AUDIO SUMMARY OF TOWN PROJECTS CAN BE ACCESSED AT THE LAND USE OFFICE.

Consideration of the minutes

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for December 2, 2015. On the October 7, 2015 Minutes Review, first paragraph, third sentence correct the word “stock” to “stuck”.

MOTION: To accept the December 2, 2016 minutes as amended.

 By Mr.Bernard, seconded by Ms. Dupuis and passed 5 to 0.

Election of Officers

Reappointment of Ms. Susan Payne as Conservation Chairman and

Reappointment of Ms. Linda Frank as Vice Chair.

MOTION: To appoint Ms. Susan Payne as Conservation Chair for the year 2016. By Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Bernard and passed 5 to 0.

MOTION: To appoint Ms. Linda Frank as Conservation Vice Chair for 2016. By Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed 5 to 0.

Impaired Waters – Ann Quackenbos

At the December 2, 2015 meeting, Ms. Payne asked Ms. Quackenbos to research Connecticut’s impaired waters. Ms. Quackenbos looked at the website which showed waterways that were tested and those that were not tested and also, they were not labeled. Randy Bernard said the state keeps a list of impaired waters. At the top of the list it is stated that all waters in the state are impaired which is due to mercury poisoning and from atmospheric deposition. Ms. Quackenbos will call Sean Hayden to get a map.

Low Impact Development – Linda Frank

Ms. Frank spoke to Sean Hayden and said that Tom McGowan is making progress on rewriting regulations. Ms. Frank said she thought it was a positive thing that Mr. Markert spoke to Tom McGown and perhaps Mr. Markert could encourage Tom to accomplish the rewrite soon.

Mr. Markert said that it takes more than just encouraging Tom and said he wonders whether or not there is any inclination or the capacity at the town level to actually administer any kind of program that would require Low Impact Development.

Horizon Line Protection Map & Regs.for Zoning – Linda Frank and Dirk Sabin

Mr. Sabin generated a map which is the visual part of

His 11/29/12 (Rev. 6/5/13) document entitled “*View Shed Thinning, An Approach to Preserve Ridgelines While Creating More Interesting Views*”. The members reviewed and discussed the map and commented that it was a valuable reference source. It should be shown to Nick Solley because this is really all part of Low Impact Development as you are leaving trees in place to keep the rain in the ground.

Walker Brook Degradation – Randy Bernard

There is not much going on at the brook during the winter season. He agrees that we should get an impaired waters list and include our streams in order to investigate where they are. Ms. Payne said that education is important. There is a very active group of concerned citizens that live on that road that address issues as they come up.

Timothy and Stephanie Ingrassia Subdivision, 292 Bee Brook Road

The Ingrassia 6 lot subdivision at 292 Bee Brook Road is back on the table. Conservation hasn’t been asked for comments at this time. Land Use Administrator Janet Hill provided Ms. Payne Brian Neff’s three-page response letter. Ms. Payne read through the document for the members. Mr. Neff said that at the Public Hearing there would be a more in depth presentation of all information. The Commission then discussed the formula for calculating a dollar fee in lieu of a set aside. Mr. Bernard asked the members if anyone heard anythng about The Pilobolus Dance Company having housing or rehearsal space on the site. No one had concrete information. Mr. Bernard asked if the town should be treating this as a commercial sub-division. Mr. Markert said it appears that this is the way it is being presented. If it’s going to be used as residences for dancers, there would be a lot of support. On the other hand, if it’s a sub-division with odd shaped lots, that’s a different situation. Ms. Payne concluded that the Conservation Commission has nothing to offer at this stage and the Commission will wait to see how Planning moves ahead. It also has to be referred to the Health Department. Ms. Payne asked to be notified when a site visit is scheduled.

Proposed ordinance prohibiting the landing of aircraft on Lake Waramaug **–** Mark Lyon Comments

Edwin Matthews, Lake Waramaug Authority, provided Mr. Lyon with letters and a draft of a proposed ordinance that would prohibit the landing of aircraft on the Lake. This has come about as the result of a pilot making a request to land on the lake. The Lake Association Task Force and Authority are in agreement to pass this type of ordinance siting the major concerns of safety and the possibility of bringing invasives to the lake. If the Board of Selectmen support the presenting of this ordinance to the townspeople, it would then need to go to a Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Matthews and Mr. Kleinberg requested support for the passing of this ordinance. Mr. Lyon heard from the Seaplane Pilots Association which will be sending information that could address these concerns. He spoke with the First Selectmen of Warren and Kent who would need to pass the ordinance as well. This would result in the entire lake being covered. Warren and Kent will most likely place the item on their May 2016 Annual Town Meeting agendas. The suggestion has been made for the three First Selectmen to meet to discuss the subject further. Following a lengthy discussion, Washington’s Selectmen agreed not to place the proposed ordinance on the January 2016 Special Town Meeting agenda, but instead gather more information and have more discussion. This would most likely lead to placing approval of this ordinance on the Annual Town Meeting agenda in May 2016.

Proposed Ordinance Regarding Prohibition of Aircraft Landings on Lake Waramaug – Richard Kleinberg Comments

Mr. Kleinberg said that the main reason he came to this meeting is to try to make sure the proposed ordinance gets on the May agenda. It started with the Lake Waramaug Association as a safety matter but then the Task Force became very concerned about it. The discussion turned to the problem of polluting the lake because there is no way to inspect a plane that may land in the water where there are invasives and then take off again after being in the infected water. The Task Force has investigated what the cost would be if there was a real serious infestation and it could be as high as $500,000. The Commission then discussed a public hearing regarding the proposed ordinance. Mr. Kleinberg said we need to show public support from the whole town. There was a lengthy discussion about the different types of aircrafts such as ultralights and included in the discussion was the classification of drones.

MOTION: To request that The Lake Waramaug Association research more stringent penalties for violation of the proposed ordinance prohibiting the landing of aircraft on Lake Waramaug. By Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Frank and passed 5 to 0.

As there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Roberti

Conservation Commission Clerk