Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### Washington Conservation Commission

#### Minutes

**January 7, 2015**

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

Members Absent: Diane Dupuis

Alternates Present: Dirk Sabin, Betsy Corrigan

Alternates Absent: Ann Quackenbos

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Ms. Payne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Seated**:** Betsy Corrigan for Diane Dupuis

Consideration of the Minutes – December 3, 2014

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for December 3, 2014.

Motion: To accept the December 3, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted. By Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Bernard, passed by 5 – 0 vote.

Zoning Regulations on Ridgeline Protection – Linda Frank

Ms. Frank distributed three (3) draft maps generated by the Housatonic Valley Association for the commissioner’s perusal:

Elevation Map - Areas Greater Than 850 ft. Town of Washington, CT

Elevation Map - Areas Greater Than 1000 ft. Town of Washington, CT

Elevation Map - High Elevation Focal Areas Town of Washington, CT

Ms. Frank asked Mr. Bernard what he discovered to be the lowest elevation in town which he replied to be 500 ft. Washington is around 650-700 and is a high town. The geography is more of a river valley with no mountains per se. Ms. Payne will go back to the HVA for additional maps including an overlay showing the protected area, scenic areas and vistas and the 850 level .

Ms. Frank said that she was concerned about the Rt. 202 corridor/Finley Road area where there is a lot of land. Should that abundance of land be developed it could potentially become unattractive.

Ms. Frank said that the Town Plan of Conservation and Development included stronger language regarding slopes.

Ms. Payne displayed a map “Peaks and Prominences December 1999 Washington Resource Map Series” generated by the Ad Hoc CC which she said is a good resource.

Mr. Sabin summarized that the Conservation Commission is trying to create a methodology where they identify the areas that potentially have a lot of impact on the views for rural quality, add in the trees and then develop a methodology to allow people to have some form of view but at the same time not to infringe on another person’s view.

Walker Brook Degradation AdvisoryPlan Update – Randy Bernard

Mr. Bernard contacted a vendor that Mr. Sabin recommended. The vendor emailed him designs that would be a fit for Washington’s application. He didn’t receive pricing but his opinion along with a few others on the commission felt that it would not be cost prohibitive. The vendor’s renderings showed huge industrial sized materials depicted just for the purpose of examples. Washington would not need these large industrial sized gabions. Mr. Bernard’s conclusion from talking to the vendor is that this application would suit the town’s needs. The next step should be to pick a site, speak to New Milford, arrange for the two towns to get together. Include

Jim Farlow (New Milford Land Use Enforcement Officer) Mike Ajello (Washington Zoning Enforcement Officer). The CC will show and explain where they are thinking of trying this application. He suggested that maybe instead of a big one time work project, perhaps some smaller experimental ones could be performed to see how they work. He told the Commission that he drove up into the West Churchill area where it turns into a dirt road and said there are enormous erosion issues there. Since the down slope side of this road has lots of area, a truck “runaway” uphill gravel/sand ramp was constructed.

It would be a good idea for both Washington and New Milford road crews to work on the gabion project together and to show the crews the vendor’s renderings. Other areas should also be identified.

Cell Tower – Susan Payne

The town is in the process of contacting the cell tower builder in order to procure rent money and to find out when there will be a service provider.

Fracking Waste Ordinance Update – Susan Payne Attorney Miles and Mark Lyon are ok with the proposed ordinance. Appears to be good to go.

New Preston Open Space 2015 Management Plan – Betsy Corrigan, Susan Payne Ms. Payne spoke to Mark Lyon and he asked what the commission would like to have happen in this area and to get back to him for the 2015-16 budget. Ms. Payne commented that the commission has been receiving some interest about the area and its abundance of invasive species. The knotweed problem at the Washington Primary School/Pavilion area is extensive. It was commented that spring would be a good time to walk around and take a look.

Planning Update - Linda Frank Ms. Payne asked Ms. Frank if there were any Planning updates. Ms. Frank mentioned the 2-lot subdivision at 279 New Milford Turnpike. Mr. Paul Frank of the Planning Commission read the zoning regulations thoroughly and found that the bridge needs the approval from the state.

Town Plan of Conservation & Development

Ms. Payne stated that the Town Plan of Conservation & Development is nearing completion.

Motion: To adjourn by Ms. Frank.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Submitted Subject to Approval,

Janice Roberti, Conservation Commission Clerk January 15, 2015