Town of Washington

**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

**Washington Depot, CT 06794**

#### Washington Conservation Commission

**Minutes September 2, 2015**

5:00 PM Main Level Meeting Room

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

Members Absent: Diane Dupuis

Alternates Present: Betsy Corrigan, Ann Quackenbos,

Alternates Absent: Dirk Sabin

Staff Present: Janice Roberti

Others: Richard Kleinberg, Lake Waramaug Association

Ms. Payne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and seated Betsy Corrigan.

Consideration of the minutes

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes of the Conservation Commission for June 3, 2015.

Correction, Page 3, under Cell Tower Update, last sentence, sixth word correct to “if”.

MOTION: To accept the July 1, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended. B Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Bernard, passed 5 – 0

Lake Environmental Issues – Richard Kleinberg, Lake Waramaug Association

Mr. Kleinberg shared with the commissioners a document of draft language he thinks should be adopted in the Lake District Section of the Zoning Regulations. Members read through the document entitled *Section 6 – R-3, Lake Waramaug Residential District and the proposed addition to Section 6.1 R-3 Lake Waramaug District*. Mr. Kleinberg asked if the Lake Waramaug Association could seek an endorsement from the Conservation Commission for the proposed language and submit it jointly with the LWA to Nick Solley. A discussion ensued and the outcome was that the members present at this meeting were in favor.

MOTION: To support the Lake Waramaug Association proposed language for adoption into the Lake District section of the Washington Zoning Regulations.

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

Mr. Bernard reported regarding meeting with Mr. Sean Hayden (Soil Scientist and Executive Director of the Northwest Connecticut Conservation District). Date not determined yet.

Mr. Bernard distributed a document entitled *Low Impact Development Practices within the Riparian Zones of Lake Waramaug and the Shepaug River*:

*The lake and river watersheds are mostly narrow areas of steep slopes and poor soils ill-suited for the intense development currently being pursued within the river and lake shorelines in the Town of Washington. Without more rigorous planning and review of storm water management, erosion & sediment control practices planned for the shorelines development projects the town will experience a deterioration of water quality and aquatic habitat leading to a long term and irreversible degradation of the outdoor environment we value so highly.*

This meeting on LID (Low Impact Development) will be co-sponsored by Conservation, Steep Rock, Lake Waramaug Association and Lake Waramaug Task Force. Steep Rock will organize. Land Use commissioners and staff in Washington, Warren & Kent are to be invited. The Conservation Commission will facilitate the invitation to Washington. The Conservation Commission unanimously supports this presentation and roundtable.

Horizon Line Protection Map & Regulations for Zoning/Continue Discussion – Linda Frank

Ms. Frank stated that when she met with Nick Solley June 2, 2015 and reassessed ridgeline zoning, Mr. Solley stated that the method of establishing ridgelines is too complicated and too expensive. Ms. Frank then displayed the overlay map that Dirk Sabin brought to the July 1, 2015 meeting. Mr. Sabin created it using maps from The Natural Resource Inventory. Ms. Frank’s opinion is to stay with steep slope guidelines. Will also include Dirk’s view scape illustrations as guidance to tree removal. Ms. Frank said she will work on language and Ms. Payne offered to assist. Ms. Payne pointed out that The Town Plan of Conservation and Development has a Slopes Map in Section D, Page 41, in the Appendix.

Major Phragmites Infestation, All Habitat Estimate – Randy Bernard

Ms. Payne previously requested that Mr. Bernard obtain a quote for phragmites remediation from All Habitat Services, LLC, **an ecological management firm specializing in aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration.** The quote reflects a decrease in pricing based on being able to perform the management plan in coordination with All Habitat’s work at Steep Rock. The commissioners discussed the methods and chemicals that would be used and whether or not the initial treatment was enough or would ~~a~~ follow up be necessary.

Ms. Payne polled the commissioners regarding the quotation and the management plan.

Ms. Payne, Mr. Bernard, Ms. Frank and Mr. Markert made a resolution to go forward with the All Habitat process coordinating with Steep Rock. Ms. Corrigan did not want to commit to the resolution until she thoroughly reviewed the report *Chemical Free Lakes, A Resource Guide to New Hampshire’s Invasive Aquatic Plants and Non-Toxic Treatment Alternatives* provided to members by Diane Dupuis. Payment to be made from the Open Space Fund which allows for stewardship maintenance of town properties.

MOTION: To accept All Habitat’s proposal and management plan for Phragmites remediation in the New Preston Open Space Preserve. By Ms. Payne, seconded by Mr. Markert passed 4 to 1. Votes recorded:

Susan Payne Yes Phil Markert Yes Betsy Corrigan No

Randy Bernard Yes Linda Frank Yes

6: 20 PM Linda Frank and Ann Quackenbos leave the meeting.

New Preston Open Space – Betsy Corrigan

Ms. Corrigan told the Commission that she has collected more plants for the botanical inventory. She said that she found some Japanese Stiltgrass and it was not found anywhere else. She will find a safe way to eradicate it. Ms. Corrigan stated that the fall mowing will be in November. Ms. Payne remarked that the work that everyone has been doing has paid off and ~~it~~ the area looks nice.

Other Business

Conservation Participation New Preston Events - Randy Bernard

Mr. Bernard participated in a New Preston event at the Steep Rock table selling raffle tickets and distributing maps. There was not much interest in the maps but the raffle tickets were popular. Combining conservation and commerce is a good idea and worth pursuing. We should think about what piques people’s interest and get the shop owners involved. Mr. Markert will survey shop owners. We need to raise awareness about what the Commission is trying to accomplish. He suggested looking at the Washington Business Association’s website - <http://www.washingtonbusinessassociation.org>.

Judson Rock – Susan Payne

There was a brief discussion about Judson’s Rock for sale for $2.5 million.  General consensus is that the Conservation Commission could recommend that some amount of the Open Space Fund be used if a group such as Steep Rock would try to buy it.  Such a recommendation from the Commission would have to be voted on by Town.

As there was no further business to discuss, M. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Roberti

Conservation Commission Clerk

**DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING.**