

March 2, 2011

5:00 p.m. Land Use Mtg. Room

Members Present: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Phil Markert, Kelly Boling, Phil Dutton, Alt., Randy Bernard, Alt.

Absent: Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt.

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others: Mr. Charles, Ms. Coakley

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Phil Markert, Kelly Boling, Phil Dutton, Alt.

Consideration of the Minutes The Minutes of the February 2, 2011 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the February 2, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted, by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Markert, passed by 5-0 vote.

Referrals / New Projects

Mr. Boling recused himself.

132 Calhoun Street Nussbaum Conservation Easement

Mr. Charles was present to discuss the possibility of scheduling a site visit for this property. The Conservation Commission scheduled a site visit for Tuesday April 5th at 4pm weather pending.

Cell Tower Update

Lease Negotiations Town Garage Site

Mr. Markert stated that he plans to meet with 1st Selectman Lyon to identify the priorities in the lease a proposed cell tower on the Town Garage Property at 10 Blackville Road. He stated that then it must go to lawyer and then to a Town meeting. Mr. Markert stated that he would consult with Mr. Comi regarding the 'tenor' of the lease. There was a brief discussion regarding the smaller antennas in the future. Ms. Coakley asked if there was any neighborhood opposition to the proposed site. Mr. Markert stated that some people on Calhoun Street objected to the visual impact.

17 Warren Road Cell Tower Site

Ms. Payne stated that the Town received a copy of the applications from AT&T and T Mobile to co-locate on the cell tower on Route 202 in Marbledale and that the tower would be raised by 10 feet and two additional tiers would be added to the existing tower. It was the consensus of the Commission that it would be important to see a configuration of the proposed additions to the tower and to address the color of the additional equipment. The Commission looked at the drawing CSC1 and looked at the renderings of the proposed additions in the AT&T application. The Commissioners agreed that the additional equipment should be painted black. Ms. Payne stated that there was no update on 17 Warren Road. Ms. Coakley stated that no one had received information as to whether or not AT&T would proceed with the

proposed cell tower at 17 Warren Road. Ms. Coakley read a statement from the neighbors of 17 Warren Road opposing the 17 Warren Road Site and the alternative sites that were proposed on January 29 (On file in the Land Use Office). She thanked the Conservation Commission for their help and support. Mr. Boling asked if any of the property owners of the proposed alternative sites have shown interest to having a cell tower on their property. She stated that the Washington Montessori School contacted the property owners to see if they would be receptive to siting a cell tower on their property. Ms. Coakley stated that some had expressed interest. She stated that some of their neighbors have been talking to them and informing them of some of the recent studies regarding cell towers.

Ms. Payne stated that Meg McMorrow would be at the Board of Selectmen meeting tomorrow to (3/3/11) make a statement. Ms. Payne stated that Dr. McMorrow and her husband moved their medical practice from Kent to Litchfield as they experienced debilitating health effects from working near the Kent monopole (120 or 130 foot tower)

Ms. Payne stated that there will be a showing of the documentary film Full Signal on Thursday April 28th at 6:30 at the Gunn Memorial Library.

Streetlights for Possible Decommissioning

The Commission discussed the location of streetlights throughout the Town. It was agreed that Mr. Boling would draft a cover letter to the Board of Selectman requesting them to consider lights that could be decommissioned because they are not needed and it could save the Town the expense of maintaining them. Mr. Boling stated that this should be discussed at a public meeting and people would be invited to express their opinion.

Other Business

Mr. Charles showed a map that indicates the land that is owned by Strawman LLC and Bee Brook. He discussed the streamside conditions and how it is being remedied. He stated that he had suggested a Low Impact Development approach and that he would be meeting with Mr. Trinkaus and Mr. Hayden.

Ms. Payne stated that land preserved in 2010 was a little over 36 acres. She stated that the Town of Washington has 25%, almost 26%, of preserved land and the goal for the Town is 30% by 2015. The Commission discussed the previous years and how they could educate the public of the benefit of a Conservation Easement. Ms. Payne suggested that something be posted on the Town Website. Mr. Boling suggested an article in the Town Newsletter. Ms. Frank suggested a postal patron mailing.

Referral from Inland Wetlands Commission

Ms. Payne stated that the Inland Wetlands Commission has been working to develop a written and specific shoreline protection policy for Lake Waramaug and other large bodies of water in Town. All the Commissioners received a copy of the draft dated March 1, 2011. Ms. Payne suggested that the Commissioners review it and get back to her with comments and input for the next meeting so that it may be passed on to the Inland Wetlands Commission before the requested date of April 8, 2011.

Proposed Revision to Zoning Regulations re: Youth Camp

Ms. Payne stated that the revision to the Zoning Regulations for Youth Camp was discussed at the Monday, February 28th Meeting of the Zoning Commission. Ms. Frank attended the meeting. Ms. Payne stated that it was erroneously printed in the Litchfield County Times that the Conservation Commission supported this revision. Ms. Frank stated that the Zoning Commission read the letter from the Conservation Commission into the record at the meeting on Monday night.

POCD Revisions and Review of Natural Resources Inventory Report

There was a brief discussion among the members as to how they would like to proceed with the revisions. It was the consensus of the Commission that Ms. Payne would assign each member a section of the POCD and their findings would be reviewed at the next Conservation Commission Meeting on April 6, 2011. There was a brief discussion regarding coordination of water studies.

Announcements

Ms. Payne made the following announcements:

- The Greenway Committee would meet on Monday March 7th. Ms. Payne stated that they would be discussing connecting the Greenway from Hidden Valley along the railroad beds into the Morris/Bantam/Litchfield area.
- A Workshop on the Future of Farming will be held in New Milford on Thursday March 10th
- There will be an Invasive Plants Workshop on Saturday March 19, 10am -12 Noon at the Harwinton Town Hall.
- Earth Day is April 22nd and the Town Road Clean up should be on April 23rd or 24th. Mr. Dutton will be representing the Conservation Commission. There was a discussion regarding making a larger sign.

Motion: to adjourn by Ms. Payne, passed by 5-0 vote.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm

Submitted subject to approval,

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk