

June 1, 2011

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

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

Absent: Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others: Ulrich Vilbois, Chris Charles

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Phil Markert, Phil Dutton, Randy Bernard, Alt

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the May 4, 2011 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the May 4, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted, by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton, passed by 5-0 vote.

Ms. Payne introduced Mr. Vilbois and stated that he is being considered for the open alternate seat on the Conservation Commission.

CC Website

Ms. Payne stated that she and Mr. Dutton have met with Mr. Wadleton, the Town Webmaster, and he has agreed to work the Conservation Commission to make its website more educational. The Commission discussed possible items to include on the website such as photos of eased areas and traditional New England stone walls. Ms. Payne asked that the Commissioners think about other items to include on the website that might be helpful to the public. Ms. Payne stated that the website could include informational links. The Commission discussed different links that could be included. Ms. Payne asked that the members of the Commission bring suggestions and photographs for the website to the July 6, 2011 meeting.

Cell Tower Update

Mr. Markert stated that discussions were concluded at the last Selectman's Meeting and a memo was created that states key points that the Town would like negotiated with Verizon in the proposed lease for a cell tower at the Town Garage site on Blackville Road. He stated that they included a limitation that would allow the proposed cell tower to accommodate co-locaters, the height will be fixed at 130 ft., RF emissions will be fixed at 2% of the maximum permissible exposure at the 750 ft setback, and that the Town expects them to adjust their antennas in such a way that those few residences that are within the setback would not exceed the 2% maximum. He stated that the Town is not sure what Verizon will accept and that he and Selectman Lyon may have to meet with the Verizon representatives for further negotiation. He stated that if this site should fail that Verizon would most likely seek out another site

The Commission looked at a map of the Town and discussed residences near and within the 750 ft. setback of the proposed cell tower site.

Mr. Markert stated that the memo would be sent to Mr. Comi and he would talk to Verizon and if he doesn't think the requests are workable Selectman Lyon and himself would have to meet with him to discuss possible adjustments.

Ms. Payne stated that the proposed cell tower site on Warren Road has been dropped and AT&T has not come forward with an alternative site. She read an email from Ms. Devlin that thanked everyone for their efforts. AT&T has not proposed any alternative sites and Ms. Payne stated that it would not be the Town's job to provide alternate sites.

Ms. Payne stated that she spoke with Ms. Gorra from the Board of Education and asked her if there are any concerns about the possibility of using WiFi in the schools. She stated that Ms. Gorra expressed interest in Ms. Payne forwarding more information to her.

Ms. Payne read a Letter to the Editor, titled Warren Unity published in the Litchfield County Times on 5/20/11 by John Hart. She stated that Mr. Hart wrote about the issue of a town upholding its regulations on cell phone towers because they "give voice to the values and concerns of the citizens who will benefit, or not, from the placement of a tower." Ms. Payne stated that she agreed with Mr. Hart and that the Town of Washington Zoning Regulations regarding cell towers are necessary to give voice to its residents. There was a brief discussion regarding the enforcement and consideration of the cell tower regulations.

Subcommittee Reports

New Preston Open Space:

Ms. Payne stated that volunteers came out and worked on invasive plants at the New Preston Open Space this past month. She stated that the property is still very wet and that she would like to get a formal proposal from Mr. Gambino to take care of the knotweed at the site. She stated that most of the knotweed at the New Preston Falls has been eradicated and that Ms. Dyer has offered to work on the knotweed along the River Walk. There was a brief discussion regarding the mowing of the New Preston Open Space.

5:50 Mr. Charles arrives.

Referrals or New Projects

Calhoun St. Conservation Easement Proposal:

Mr. Charles asked the Conservation Commission for some input regarding the proposed Conservation Easement at 132 Calhoun Street before he finalizes the language. The Commission agreed that they did not want reforestation on the easement and that the language should include a definition of 'farm road' and provisions for a stewardship program.

Subcommittee Reports cont.

Watercourses/Waterways of Town:

The Commission looked at the Water Resource & Aerial Map of the Town of Washington, dated 1999. Ms. Payne stated that the Conservation Commission hopes to get some additional protection to sensitive areas beyond the Inland Wetlands Regulations.

There was a brief discussion regarding map updating. Mr. Bernard stated that he would start a list of confluences and prioritize them.

Other Business

Ms. Payne stated that the Conservation Commission would continue the review of goals assigned to CC in 2003 TPOCD and the Natural Resource Inventory Report Recommendations at the next meeting on July 6, 2011.

Connecticut Council of Governments will have a regional housing forum on June 16th 8am to 9:30am at Kent Town Hall.

Mr. Bernard stated that he would update the Commission regarding the DEP Training for Stream Walk

Assessments that is scheduled for Saturday June 11.

Motion: to adjourn by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dutton, passed by 5-0 vote.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Submitted subject to approval
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk