

July 6, 2011

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

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

Absent: Phil Markert, Betsy Corrigan, Alt

Staff Present: Shelley White

Others: Chris Charles, Christine Chase

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

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

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the June 1, 2011 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the June 1, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted, by Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed by 5-0 vote.

Cell Tower Update

Ms. Payne stated that Verizon has been reading the Conservation Commission minutes and expressed some concerns and Mr. Markert reminded Verizon that the Conservation Commission is just one body of the Town's Municipal Government and that the lease comes to the Town for a vote of the citizens. She stated that Consultant Comi is negotiating the lease with Verizon.

CC Website

Ms. Frank and Mr. Dutton displayed photos on a laptop that they thought could be used for the Conservation Commission's website. The photos would be used to educate the public by showing examples of roadside easements, protected open space, waterside vegetation and stonewalls.

The Commission discussed how they would like to arrange the website so that it is user friendly. They agreed that they would come up with a list of topics that they would like to address on the website, updated maps and links to other informative websites.

Subcommittee Reports

Watercourses/Waterways of Town:

Mr. Bernard stated that he made a list of the main streams in Town and that he went to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to look at the streamside assessment. He stated that the NRCS has organized an assessment for Battle Swamp Brook and would be producing a report on the data received from the assessment sheets.

Referrals or New Projects

Nussbaum - Calhoun St. Conservation Easement Proposal:

Mr. Charles was present to discuss the proposed draft of the Conservation Easement for 132 Calhoun Street. He submitted the most recent version of the CE. Ms. Payne suggested a few changes to the document. Mr. Dutton stated that he would like to see a final map of the proposed easement. Ms. Payne stated that she would like to speak with Town Counsel regarding the enforcement.

Mr. Charles submitted a map of the proposed easement and a proposed stewardship plan. Ms. Frank

stated that she felt the proposed easement looked 'disjointed.' Mr. Charles explained that the .48-acre section located at the rear of the property would be for a potential barn. Ms. Frank stated that she did not like the idea of a farm road going through as easement.

Mr. Charles discussed the existing Deed Restriction with the Commission.

It was the consensus of the Conservation Commission that they would like to seek the advice of Town Counsel and have the chance to discuss the proposed easement among the Commission members. She stated that the Commission's biggest concerns are enforcement and the farm road over the proposed easement.

6:45 p.m. – Mr. Charles leaves.

The Commission discussed the proposed Conservation Easement. There was a brief discussion regarding a possible fund for a stewardship program.

Subcommittee Reports cont.

New Preston Open Space:

Ms. Payne stated that she and Ms. Corrigan had a couple of working days at the property and that the Town and the Village Improvement Committee have designated money to pay Mr. Gambino to get rid of the knotweed along the wetlands. Ms. Payne stated that Village Improvement has expressed an interest in a long-term contract with Mr. Gambino.

Ms. Payne stated that Ms. Arturi is involved in finding a couple of volunteer positions for Shepaug students and that maybe they could volunteer at the New Preston Open Space.

Other Business

Decommissioning of Streetlights:

Mr. Dutton volunteered to work with the Selectmen with this process.

Ms. Payne stated that she received an email from the First Selectman regarding the replacement of the trees in Bryan Memorial Plaza.

The Conservation Commission will not be meeting the month of August 2011.

Motion:

to adjourn by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Dupuis, passed by 5-0 vote.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Submitted subject to approval,
Shelley White, Land Use Clerk