Town of Washington

#### Washington Conservation Commission

#### Minutes

**November 5, 2014**

**5:10 PM**

**Members Present:** Susan Payne, Randy Bernard, Phil Markert

**Members Absent:** Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis

**Alternates Present:** Betsy Corrigan

**Alternates Absent:** Ann Quackenbos, Dirk Sabin

**Staff Present:** Janice Roberti

**Others:** Carlos Canal, Chris Charles

5:10 PM

Ms. Payne, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Seated**:** Payne, Bernard, Markert, and Alternate Corrigan for Frank.

Consideration of the Minutes

The Commission considered the regular meeting minutes for October 1, 2015 and made the following revisions:

Page 1, under New Preston Open Space, line 5, correct “damn(s)” to “dam(s).”

Page 1, line 5 change word “lines” to “levels.”

Remove last three sentences regarding the cutting back of phragmites.

MOTION:To accept the October 1, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended. By Mr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Markert, passed 4.0.

Fracking Waste Ordinance

Mr. Carlos Canal was present at the meeting. He distributed several documents to the commission – *A Description Hydraulic Fracturing & Toxic Fracking* Waste and a draft of the proposed town ordinance prohibiting hydraulic fracturing. Mr. Canal discussed the draft proposal. The commissioners asked Mr. Canal questions, made comments and some suggestions regarding some text revisions.

 MOTION: The Conservation Commission of the Town of Washington, Connecticut supports the proposed town ordinance prohibiting the process known as hydraulic fracturing and the storage, disposal or use of fracking waste or any derivative thereof in the Town of Washington, Connecticut. By Ms. Corrigan, seconded Mr. Markert, passed 4 to 0.

Walker Brook Degradation AdvisoryPlan

Ms. Payne asked Mr. Bernard about information that missed inclusion in the October 1, 2014 minutes. Mr. Bernard and

Ms. Roberti could not connect in time to include. Below is the text of the 10/14/14 email to Ms. Roberti:

***“****The September WCC meeting minutes state that I would draft a letter to IWC of both Towns regarding the impacts that*

*road maintenance operations are having on Walker Brook.*

*The October WCC meeting minutes should reflect that instead of drafting this letter, Nic Nichols and I met with Mike Zarba, the New Milford Public Works Director, to discuss solutions to these issues.  As a result of this meeting Mike Zarba issued a resident notification letter alerting Walker Brook Road residents of road maintenance operations being planned to minimize impacts to the stream.  The letter states that the New Milford Highway Department will be installing vegetative buffers and rip rap (stone) protection on the embankments to help control water run-off and minimize erosion on the New Milford stretch of Walker Brook Road just south of Chapin Rd.*

*The situation on Walker Brook Road is complicated because the town line weaves back and forth across the road and Brook and the road maintenance solutions that will be effective in minimizing the impacts on Walker Brook vary depending on the specific section of road.   As a first step I believe that it will be more productive to discuss specific solutions for each section of road with the highway personnel from the corresponding town.  If further action is required it might then be appropriate for the WCC to make recommendations to the appropriate IWC of erosion control measures for specific sections of Walker Brook road****.”***

**---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------** Mr. Bernard and Mr. Sabin met at Walker Brook on October 23, 2014 and looked at a section of the road which appears to be in New Milford. He said that New Milford has been very responsible in meeting with the residents keeping them informed. This section has very steep banks. On Rt. 109 just after the bridge, there a lot of gravel that ends up in Walker Brook. Mr. Sabin suggested using Gambion technology which is advanced erosion control technology. Gabions are **wire mesh baskets compactly filled with rocks,** wired together for construction of **erosion control structures** and for the stabilization of steep slopes and to prevent erosion. Mr. Sabin will make sketches and Mr. Bernard will provide a detailed map of the Walker Brook basin. Ms. Payne stated that it would be a good idea for the commission to plan a site walk of the area.

Cell Tower Update Ms. Payne indicated that the new tower is up at the Town Garage and will be functioning in early 2015. The artificial tree camouflage looks much like a white pine. Comments were made that it is aesthetically pleasing and when looking in the direction of the tower it is hard to distinguish where the tower is. Ms. Payne did not have any further information on the Roxbury Tower as she has not seen a proposal yet.

New Preston Open Space Stewardship Ms. Corrigan told the commission that she and her husband started cutting back Autumn Olive, an invasive species found in our wooded areas. Ms. Corrigan will continue cutting it back and Mr. Bernard offered to assist. Corrigan. Ms. Payne asked Ms. Corrigan if she wanted to reach out to the New Preston Stewardship. A suggestion was made about putting blue bird houses in the field and that this might be a good project for the local cub scouts.

Miscellaneous The Gunnery will start work soon at the 22 South Street athletic playing field.

The subdivision at 279 New Milford Turnpike is a two-block subdivision, approximately 9 acres. Ms. Payne informed the commission that there was no open space set aside. She wanted to bring this information to the commission and showed the members “Subdivision Layout and Site Development Plan” by Arthur Howland.

At the end of the meeting Chris Charles asked Ms. Payne if the commission would be discussing zoning regulations. Ms. Payne explained that not all topics on the agenda can be covered due to various reasons but are listed on its agenda.

###### Adjournment

Motion:To adjourn by Mr. Markert, seconded by Mr. Bernard

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

###### Submitted subject to approval,

 Janice Roberti, Land Use Clerk 11-12-14