

January 7, 2004

Present: Chairperson Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Elizabeth Corrigan, Joe Gitterman

Alternates: Linda Frank, Elaine Luckey

Guests: First Selectman Richard Sears *arrived at 5:30pm

The Chairperson, Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Alternate Linda Frank was seated.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the December 3, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Susan Payne made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3rd meeting, Linda Frank seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Linda Frank made a motion to elect Susan Payne as Chairperson and Kelly Boling as Vice-chairman of the Conservation Commission through January 2004. Joe Gitterman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: none

Susan Payne informed members of two preliminary discussions brought before the Planning Commission on January 6th. They were a two lot subdivision at 38 New Preston Hill Road and a subdivision proposed for the Beck property on Calhoun Street. Also from minutes of the Inland/Wetland Commission discussion of a deed restriction for the Randall property at 53 River Road and a conservation easement for Sheinfeld on Lower Church Hill Road. Discussion ensued about the concern of having several different commissions in charge of monitoring easements. Susan Payne spoke with Dorothy Hill, Chairperson of the Inland/Wetland Commission about her commission holding conservation easements. Ms. Hill has spoken to Land Use attorney Michael Zizka and was informed that the Inland/Wetland Commission can hold conservation easements. The monitoring would be done by the Inland/Wetland enforcement officer. Ms. Payne will bring up this topic at the January 27th meeting of the Commission Chairs.

West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement: No activity the property owner is still waiting for word from CL&P.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: Linda Frank and Elaine Luckey have been spending time going over the town owned properties, they are making great headway and will continue gathering information and evaluating these parcels.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: no activity

School Connection (SVHS and Gunnery/Environmental Club): no activity

Cell Tower: All seems quite. Phil Markert and Diane Dupuis keep a check on applications. Mr. Sears asked if there was an official town stance on cell towers. Susan Payne briefed Mr. Sears on the Cell Tower Subcommittee and its work. There is no "official" view on cell towers.

Land Use Data Management: Kelly will schedule a meeting.

Flora & Fauna: Betsy is excited about working with Earth Day 2004 activities to educate the public on

invasive species.

Greenway: The commission met on January 5th and will continue to meet the first Monday of every month at 4:30pm. Susan reports that work is going well with the trail guide and there was more discussion on Greenway links at the January 5th meeting. They have a new member Dan Sherr.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet Committee: This subcommittee continues to meet the third Wednesday of every month at 4:30pm. This month Ms. Payne stated that members will edit their document. She would like to set a goal of having the brochure ready for the town's 225th anniversary celebration.

Scenic Road: Elaine Luckey has written a draft of the first page of an introduction to landowners living on designated Scenic Roads. Joe Gitterman hopes to have it finalized by the next Conservation meeting and they will work on other documents for the how-to packet. First Selectman Richard Sears interjected his thoughts on people's interpretation of the Scenic Road Ordinance and problems arising from town crew and power company maintenance on Scenic Roads. Members discussed and felt that most landowners probably do not read the entire Scenic Road Ordinance and have many different opinions on what is and is not allowed on a designated Scenic Road. Joe is hoping that the how-to packet will address some of these issues. Susan Payne brought up the lack of an application fee for this ordinance. Joe Gitterman has spoken to the First Selectmen's office and they stated that fees for legal notice range from \$75.00 to \$150.00. Members feel that the fee should cover costs affiliated with the application.

MOTION: Susan Payne made a motion to request the fee for the Scenic Road Application be set at \$150.00. Joe Gitterman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Water Resources: no activity

Other Business

Pam Osborne, secretary will send copies of Kelly Boling's draft of a proposed Zoning Regulation pertaining to Discontinued/Abandoned Public Highways to all Conservation Commission members.

Dick Sears mentioned that a Town newsletter should be published in the spring and encouraged the Conservation Commission to submit information on the Scenic Road Ordinance, Greenways, etc.

Mr. Sears also shared with members plans for the Town of Washington 225th celebration. There will be three main events a Talent Show, Historical Parade and New Years Eve Gala Ball.

Susan Payne has spoken with Andrew Roraback who stated that there is still no funding for the state's Open Space Acquisition Fund.

The Conservation Commission and Selectmen's office received a packet and maps from Northeast Utilities System regarding Evaluation of Certain Unimproved Lands of Northeast Utilities as Potential Future Candidates for Municipal Open Space Acquisition. After reviewing the maps it was determined that there were no parcels of interest in Washington.

All Members who had not already received copies were given a black & white copy of the 2003 Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is February 4, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary