

October 1, 2003

Present: Chairperson, Susan Payne, Phillip Markert
Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis

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

Linda Frank and Diane Dupuis were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the September 3, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 17th meeting with the following amendment; under West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement:Susan Payne once again encouraged members to drive by this property the driveway has been cleared..... Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: none

West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement: No new developments, Susan Payne will keep members informed.

Road Discontinuation & Greenway Potential: not discussed

Monitoring Town Properties: not discussed

Management Plan: not discussed

Subcommittees

Canoe Brook: Ms. Payne attended a special meeting with selectmen about grant funding and projects. She asked that they consider the Canoe Brook project for their grant process. The town is applying for a STEP grant that is to be considered for this project.

School Connection (SVHS) and Gunnery/Environmental Club:Linda Frank has been in touch with Ms. MacSweeney at SVMS. Ms. MacSweeney has 16 children in her Environmental Club.

Cell Tower: Diane Dupuis stated that no new cell tower applications have been made. Ms. Dupuis did mention the imminence of a tower in the Gooseboro area. Discussion ensued about the likelihood of more cell tower applications. Phil Markert felt that if there were better cooperation between carriers there would be less of a need for multiple towers. Ms. Dupuis stated that cooperation has not happened in the past. Mr. Markert may contact Mr. Phelps with the Siting Council and speak to him on this subject.

Data Management: not discussed

Flora & Fauna: not discussed

Greenway: Susan Payne reported that they had a great work day at "The Falls" in New Preston. It was noted that the Greenway Committee has changed its meeting date to the 1st Monday of each month.

Land Use info/Welcome Pamphlet: This sub-committee is regrouping and Susan expects a first draft after the new year.

Scenic Road Ordinance: This ordinance is on the agenda for the Town Meeting on October 6th. Susan Payne as Chairperson for the Conservation Commission received a letter from George Bender; Chairman of the Planning Commission, Susan read the letter into record. The Planning Commission supports the general concept of the scenic road ordinance but had two thoughts about the language and emergency repair section of the ordinance.

Water Resources: Samples have not been taken at the Rumsey site, Phil thought that waiting till the school was back in session was the reason, Susan also felt that with all the rain/ground water lately it would be hard to get accurate readings for samples taken. It was mentioned that members from the Bantam Water Shed organization wanted to share information with the Washington Environmental Council; Dan Sherr of the Bantam Water Shed organization will reschedule his visit with the Conservation Commission.

TPOCD public forum scheduled for October 29th, 2003 at 7:30pm.

Other Business

Members received a memo from Elaine Luckey about the proposed ordinance authorizing Conservation and Planning Commissions to acquire open space land and the concerns raised at last months meeting.

Susan Payne raised discussion on a proposed driveway on South Street. The Gunnery School has made an application, to the Selectmen for a driveway on South Street. It is an 18' / 2 lane driveway. Ms. Payne stated that the South Street Residents want the Selectmen to defer the driveway application decision until the Inland Wetland permit can be revisited. Reading from the minutes of the December 13th, 2000 Inland Wetlands meeting Ms. Payne stated that at that time the Inland Wetland commission approved the application for the driveway because the commission didn't feel the application was a significant activity or of public interest. After receiving driveway approval the Gunnery submitted a Zoning application for soccer fields on the property. At that Zoning meeting neighbors voiced concerns about the proposed soccer fields and the Gunnery withdrew their application. Ms. Payne also read a letter written by the Sterns voicing major concerns and the impact on neighbors. Susan asked if members felt the Conservation Commission should voice a concern for the natural resources on the property, should the commission get involved? Mr. Markert was hesitant to question the Inland/Wetland decision. Ms Dupuis voiced concerns for the wetlands. Ms. Frank felt it naive to think the Gunnery would not utilize their land and felt that playing fields would be less intrusive than dormitories or faculty housing. Ms. Payne felt that neighbors might be more apt to be for housing than soccer fields. Mr. Markert felt that perhaps the Gunnery has an overall plan for the school which would use the area where the existing playing fields are at the school. Discussion ended with Phil Markert offering to draft a letter from the Conservation Commission, this draft will be circulated to members for proofing. Phil will get the draft to Pam Osborne, secretary and she will email it to members for feedback.

Notices about CACIWC's annual meeting were handed out to members.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is October 15th, 2003 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary