

October 15, 2003

Present: Chairperson, Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Elizabeth Corrigan, Joseph Gitterman, Phillip Markert

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

No alternates were seated.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the October 1, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Joe Gitterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1st meeting with the following amendment; under Subcommittees, Canoe Brook the first sentence should reflect that Ms. Payne did not attend the meeting but made a request regarding grant funding. Phil Markert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: There were no official referrals but members did discuss a few applications.

Ms. Payne had visited a site at 95 Nichols Hill Road. The applicant is building a driveway and home which crosses wetlands. Members briefly looked at the plans in the Inland/Wetland file.

Members also looked at the latest plans for the Erbs property at 51 Sunset Lane.

All members received copies of Phil's draft about the driveway application for Gunnery School on South Street. A new draft was circulated to members at tonight's meeting. Susan Payne will check with Elaine Luckey to see if the Gunnery is in fact sharing a master/long term plan with the town, then members will decide how to proceed with the draft.

Pam Osborne, secretary will remind Janet Hill, Planning Commission secretary about the April 3, 2003 memo asking for referrals for any project with conservation easement or gift in fee.

West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement: No new information.

Road Discontinuation & Greenway Potential:

Kelly Boling reported that the Planning Commission gave its blessing to their plans. Kelly's subcommittee will be meeting with adjoining property owners. Roads being discontinued are portions of Tinker Hill, West Mountain, Pot Ash, Curtis and Bantam River Road. The discontinuation of these roads will be on the Agenda for the November 12th Town Meeting. Kelly explained that the town's people will vote on each of the roads to be discontinued individually.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: Susan Payne would like to assign town owned parcels to Conservation members for monitoring. Pam Osborne will circulate a list of Town owned properties with a map to all conservation members. Management and monitoring will be discussed at the next conservation meeting after members have reviewed their information.

MOTION: Kelly Boling made a motion that starting with the November 5th meeting the Conservation Commission will meet once a month, on the first Wednesday of the month. Betsy Corrigan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: no new information

School Connection: no new information

Cell Tower: no new information

Data Management: Kelly will be setting up a meeting.

Flora & Fauna: Betsy Corrigan continues to monitor the Giant Hog Weed site in Warren as well as the down stream areas. Natalie Dyer has written to the First Selectman's office about knotweed. Ms. Corrigan reminded members that early detection and monitoring are the best ways of keeping evasive plants under control. There was discussion about getting information to the public through the spring clean up sponsored by the Washington Environmental Council and also via the town's website.

Greenway: There will be a clean up day October 25th at 8:30am, meeting at My Chef. Members hope to work on a trail guide through the winter months.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet: no new information

Scenic Road Ordinance: The scenic road ordinance passed at the October 6th Town Meeting. Joe Gitterman would like to work on a standard packet and forms to be given to applicants. Joe also asked about designating state roads as scenic. It was suggested he contact Linda Frank, because the lake road is a state scenic road.

Water Resources:

Phil Markert states that samples have been taken starting in the river in Bantam and finishing below Rumsey Hall School.

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

Other Business

Betsy Corrigan has been doing an evasive plant survey in Lake Waramaug and all looks good.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

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

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary