

October 6, 2004

Present: Susan Payne, Chairperson, Kelly Boling

Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis

Guests: Mr. & Mrs. Burke, Addie Roberts

Members are asked to call Susan Payne at home (868-9348) if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Susan Payne, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Linda Frank and Diane Dupuis were seated as alternates.

Pam Osborne, secretary clarified the purposes for an "Executive Session". The Chairman, Susan Payne added that it might be a good idea at some future date to review procedures and policies.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the September 1, 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Kelly Boling made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1st meeting with the following corrections: on page (2) the (8th) sentence should read "The memo to the Board of Selectman and the draft to New Milford will be emailed to Susan Payne, Chairman before distribution."; on page (2) under Cell Tower the (5th) sentence should read " Diane Dupuis interjected that she has stacks of documented evidence about risks to health, birds and the environment." . Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions:

An update on the New Milford Zoning Commission Proposed Cluster Conservation Subdivision/Walker Brook Road and Route 109: The Public Hearing was held in New Milford on September 28, 2004, a copy of the minutes from that meeting was submitted to the file. Kelly Boling attended the Public Hearing and stated that there was not much time for public comment and the hearing was recessed until October 12, 2004. A letter was submitted by the Washington Inland/Wetlands Commission which Pam will locate and email to members. Mr. & Mrs. Burke expressed concern with this proposed development in New Milford. Ms. Payne told Mr. & Mrs. Burke that several Land Use Commissions as well as the First Selectman submitted written correspondence to the New Milford Zoning Commission. The Burke's went on to ask about designating Scenic Roads. They questioned whether an interested party could initiate the process for designating a Scenic Road? Members answered that the "How-To-Packets" are available from Janet Hill, Planning Commission secretary. Anybody can start the designation process but a majority of properties owners need to approve the designation.

Susan Payne followed up on a couple of issues left from last month's meeting.

First she addressed Diane Dupuis's suggestion of getting information to developers and real estate agents concerning preservation/conservation/wildlife. Ms. Dupuis is doing research and Ms. Payne suggested contacting the Northwest Council of Governments, Paul Graney and Dan McGuiness. Ms. Dupuis thought perhaps this could be done in conjunction with neighboring towns.

Secondly Ms. Payne asked Kelly Boling if he had contacted George Blake about updating the Assessors maps on the Arc View program. Mr. Boling has been in contact with the Assessors office and they have decided to start at the point of the Natural Inventory Report in November of 2000.

TPOCD - Open Space Committee Report:

The Town Meeting was held on Monday October 4th, with 100+ people in attendance. Susan Payne did a presentation for the Open Space Committee's forum scheduled for October 28, 2004 at 7:30pm. The Open Space committee will meet on October 20th at 5:00pm; they will also do some prep work for the October 28th presentation on October 13th.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: Linda Frank states that things are moving along.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: no report.

School Connection: Linda Frank has a call into the Gunnery and will be sending an informational packet to them. There was continued discussion on utilizing the Senior Project or Community Service avenues at the Shepaug School, there needs to be a mentor for these programs.

Cell Tower Update: Diane Dupuis has been told that work is starting on the cell tower location at Gooseboro, but she hasn't seen any activity.

Land Use Data Management: discussed above.

Flora & Fauna: no report.

Greenway: Susan Payne reported that at the last Greenway meeting Dirk Sabin submitted a planting plan for the Town's parcel at the beginning of School Street along the driveway to the Washington Primary School. This property contains the septic system for the Bell residence on Green Hill, members will be cautious with planting. They have received estimates for this work and will use funds from their budget and fundraising. This area could be the "Gateway to the Greenway". Work is progressing on the Points of Interest Trail Guide.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet: This project is complete and will be removed from the agenda.

Road Discontinuation: Kelly Boling hopes to have a couple of road discontinuations on the agenda for the next Town Meeting.

Scenic Road: no report.

Water Resources: No report - Susan Payne has passed information on to Phil Markert.

Other Business

Addie Roberts invited members of the Conservation Commission to a Garden Club meeting on October 14, 2004 at 1:30pm at St. John's Parrish House. Frances H. Clark of Carex Associates will be speaking on Botany Stewardship.

Kelly Boling asked if next year the Conservation Commission would be interested in tackling the issue of light pollution. This suggestion met with positive response.

Members were given a brochure for the upcoming CACIWC Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference.

Meeting adjourned at 5:47pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is November 3, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary