

# October 6, 2010

5:00 p.m. Land Use Mtg. Room

**Members Present:** Susan Payne, Phil Markert, Kelly Boling, Diane Dupuis, Phil Dutton, Alt,

**Absent:** Linda Frank, Betsy Corrigan, Alt., Dirk Sabin, Advisor

**Staff Present:** Shelley White

Chairman Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Phil Markert, Kelly Boling, Diane Dupuis

## **Consideration of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the September 1, 2010 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Corrections:

Page 1: under 110 Calhoun Street, end of last sentence should read...that it be restored to its original condition.

Under Cell Tower Update, 3rd sentence should read...The Commission talked about the style of the tower and believes that a 'tree type' cell tower would be appropriate if a siting transpires.

Motion:

to accept the September 1, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended, by Mr. Markert, seconded by Ms. Dupuis, passed by 4-0 vote.

## **Referrals / New Projects**

There were no new projects or referrals.

5:12

Mr. Dutton arrives and is seated.

## **Cell Tower Update**

Ms. Dupuis stated that she attended the Special Meeting on September 24, 2010 with the Board of Selectmen and telecommunications people to discuss the Proposed Cell Tower on the Town of Washington Highway Department property. She stated that there were two balloon float tests on 9/18/10 at 130 feet. Ms. Dupuis told the telecommunications representatives that the Town was led to believe that AT&T was to co-locate on the Marbledale tower. The attorney for AT&T informed her that when AT&T merged with Cingular they did not pursue the location in Marbledale and would now need to raise the height of the tower or change the type of antenna if they were to co-locate at this site. Ms. Dupuis discussed other possible proposed sites for cell towers in the area. There was a discussion regarding the Town's right to limit the height of the cell towers by including it in the lease. Mr. Boling stated that when negotiating this lease it is worth considering the uniqueness of the historic Calhoun-Ives District and that it is important to protect these resources in Town by designing towers that minimize visual impact. The Town will continue its review process of the lease.

## **Decommission Extraneous Town Street Lights**

Mr. Boling submitted a map indicating extraneous streetlights in the New Preston area.

### **Town Plan of Conservation and Development**

Ms. Payne stated that she would like to meet with Ms. Gager, Vice Chair of the Planning Commission to discuss the Conservation Commission's assignments indicated in the TPOCD's, what has been accomplished, and the upcoming revision. She stated that she feels the Conservation Commission should review the recommendations in the Town's Natural Resources Inventory Report and discuss what, if any, revisions need to be made.

Mr. Markert stated that he talked to a couple of different towns to see how they approached their Towns' POCDs. Mr. Markert discussed some of the methods of strategic planning that worked and did not work for the towns that he spoke with. He stated that he felt that the planning process would require a solid commitment from all the Commissions and Committees and they would have to agree on the goals that are outlined in the TPOCD. Mr. Markert stated that another important factor would be to include the residents by communicating with them and keeping them updated throughout the process. The Commission discussed the role and responsibilities of an Implementation Committee. There was a brief discussion regarding including a representative from each of the Town's political committees. Ms. Payne stated that she talked with Ms. Roberts, Chair of the Planning Commission, who told her that the Planning Commission was not planning to hire a consultant to do the revision of the TPOCD. It was the consensus of the Conservation Commission that they should compile a list of what they feel are important strategic objectives for the TPOCD, and bring them to the Planning Commission. The Commission briefly discussed the mandate of the Conservation Commission.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Payne stated that The Greenway Committee met on Monday, October 4th.

### **Upcoming events:**

October 10, 2010 - Global Climate Change Fight, 11-12.30 at Bryan Memorial Town Hall

Motion: to adjourn by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Dupuis.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm

Submitted subject to approval,

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk