

October 7, 2009

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

Members Present: Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Phil Markert, Betsy Corrigan, Alt., Phil Dutton, Alt.

Absent: Ric Sonder, Alt., Dirk Sabin, Advisor

Staff Present: Shelley White

Guests: Rocky Tomlinson

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

Seated: Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Kelly Boling & Diane Dupuis, Phil Markert

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the July 1, 2009 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

To accept the July 1, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted, by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Boling, passed by 5-0 vote.

The Minutes of the September 2, 2009 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Corrections:

Under 108 New Milford Turnpike Update,

5th sentence should read: Selectman Lyon stated that the Town and Washington Partners were in negotiation when the deposit....

Under Cell Tower Update,

1st sentence should read: Ms. Dupuis discussed the final decision of the siting council regarding SBA's withdrawal of their Application, their mooting of the appeals and the possible siting of a cell tower...

2nd sentence should read: She stated there has not been any new information regarding this possible site. After 5th sentence, insert: Ms. Dupuis replied that the Town of Washington has very good regulations regarding tower siting.

2nd to last sentence should read: Ms. Dupuis stated the Cell Tower Subcommittee reviews an application.

Motion:

To accept the September 2, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as corrected, by Mr. Boling, seconded by Ms. Frank, passed by 5-0 vote.

108 New Milford Turnpike Update

First Selectman Mark Lyon resent the deposit check to Washington Partners, LLC. Washington Partners, LLC are working on getting the contractors to the site in order to finish the work for the environmental assessment.

Subcommittee Reports

Cell Tower Update

Ms. Dupuis brought to the Commission's attention to the article titled "Residents, Officials Share Concerns About Cell Tower," by Tammy McVey-Cammilleri, in Voices on 10/7/09. She stated that she was concerned with the lack of communication from the Connecticut Siting Council.

Ms. Payne read a letter that was sent to Derek Phelps of Siting Council on October 1st, from the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town of Washington, requesting the Connecticut Siting Council's assistance in developing a telecommunication assessment coverage plan within the Town of Washington. Ms. Payne stated that Mr. Tomlinson took his request regarding providing coverage for emergency purposes in the Town of Washington to the Board of Selectmen and this letter to the C.S.C was a direct result of his request.

There was a discussion among the Conservation Commissioners and Mr. Tomlinson regarding the C.S.C.'s mandate. Ms. Dupuis stated that the C.S.C. must consider the Town's Zoning Regulations regarding cell tower siting and believes that the C.S.C. mission is run by the telecommunications industry, which is why the Attorney General's Office is pursuing them. Ms. Dupuis questioned why AT&T was not up and operational on the cell tower on Route 202 in Marbledale. She stated that the Town's available coverage couldn't be gauged if the available services are not up and operational.

Mr. Boling stated that working with the C.S.C. to develop a coverage plan would be a great opportunity to address these issues responsibly.

Ms. Frank stated she wrote Steve Wadleton, Town Webmaster, suggesting that a map be put on the Town website in which residents would email Mr. Wadleton and tell him where in town they receive cell service and what carrier is providing their service and it would be indicated on this map. There was a discussion regarding other factors that could be included. She stated it could be a tool for a variety of people.

Mr. Boling suggested that the Conservation Commission request that the Board of Selectman contact and invite all Land Use Commissions to participate in whatever Siting Council activity comes up. Ms. Payne stated she would write a letter to the B.O.S. with this request but have the C.C. look at it before sending it.

Best Development Practices Brochure:

Mr. Dutton stated that he is working on incorporating some more information into the brochure. He also stated that once all the information is incorporated it would need to be condensed. Ms. Payne stated the brochure should be put on the Town website. The C.C. agreed it would be a good idea to inform the residents of the Town of Washington in the next Town Newsletter that this would be available on the website.

Greenway Committee:

Ms. Payne stated she was not able to attend the last meeting. She stated that the Greenway Committee did clean up around the plantings along the walking path near Washington Primary School.

DOT – Route 202 Scenic Road Application:

Ms. Payne stated there is an application into the Planning Commission to designate West Mountain Road as a Scenic Road. She stated that there has not been any response from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding the Route 202 application. There was a discussion regarding why the D.O.T. would be holding up its decision.

Ms. Corrigan suggested that Romford Road be looked into as a possible candidate for a scenic road. Mr. Markert asked if the roads that run through the Historic Districts be automatically considered for scenic road designation. Ms. Payne stated they would have to go through the process.

Natural Diversity/Critical Habitat Resources Map Update:

Ms. Corrigan stated that this was a draft and that she mapped the known habitat areas and the areas that could be of potential ecological importance. She stated she is hoping that the map could be used as a tool in land use as another layer to the screening process of future development. She explained how she collected the data for the map.

The Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to have an overlay of lot lines and existing open space. Ms. Payne stated it would be a good idea to encourage the Land Use Office to use this map and to keep in mind that it would always be a work in progress as things are always changing.

Mr. Markert asked how the Land Use Office would use this. Ms. Payne stated that hopefully they would check the map upon receiving an application and use it as a filter and then refer the applicant to the Conservation Commission.

There was a discussion as to what the process would be. Ms. Corrigan stated that she would go to the printer and try to get the lot lines overlay done and then take the map to the Land Use Office and explain how it should be used.

Conservation Design Subdivisions:

Mr. Markert stated that he thought it would be a good idea to get the Arendt books around, and then find someone to advise the subcommittee.

Old Business

Conservation Easement Model:

The Conservation Commission considered the draft of the Deed of Conservation Restriction.

Motion:

to approve the model conservation easement as submitted,
by Ms. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Corrigan, passed by 7-0 vote.

Other Business

Mr. Boling drafted a letter Joseph Marie, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation, proposing a foot/bike lane on Route 45 between New Preston Village and Lake Waramaug. Ms. Payne stated she would email the letter and they could back to her with any editing suggestions or comments.

There was a brief discussion regarding the progress of the Town Beach Renovation.

Ms. Payne stated that the Annual Report is due. She will draft it and send it around for editing.

There was a brief discussion regarding town planning and regulations.

Motion:

to adjourn by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm

Submitted subject to approval,

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk