

November 20, 2002

Present: Chairman, Susan Payne, Ruth Alex, Betsy Corrigan, Philip Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank, Linda Potter

Guest: Candace Korzenko, member of Inland/Wetland Commission

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

Susan Payne, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Ms. Payne introduced Candace Korzenko, a member of the Inland/Wetland Commission. Ms. Korzenko will be a liaison between the Conservation and Inland/Wetland Commissions.

Linda Frank was seated as an alternate.

Approval of the minutes of the November 6, 2002 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Ruth Alex made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6th meeting Susan Payne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: There were no official referrals. Conservation members discussed two applications that are before the Inland/Wetland Commission. The first one pertained to the Rizzo/James property at 129 Bee Brook Road. Ms. Korzenko explained that the property owners want to terrace the bank along the Shepaug River in order to control erosion. The owners are looking to install gabions planted with willow sprouts for camouflage. Ms. Korzenko went on to state that the erosion problem is not from the river but is a drainage problem originating from the house and driveway. The area in question is a nice natural area with hemlocks and Candace feels that the cutting up of the hemlocks exposed the site of erosion. Betsy Corrigan suggested the terraced area along the river be planted with low native species plants and she was also concerned with the probability of added top soil to the area and its future effects on the root system of the hemlocks. Susan Payne suggested that Conservation members drive by to look at the area and discussion will continue at the December 4th meeting.

The second site discussed was Cass/De Pecol property at 46 June Road. Dorothy Hill, Chairman for the Inland/Wetland Commission has asked for written input from the Conservation Commission. Members were in agreement that the two main concerns were minimum cutting and not destroying the under story. Susan will draft a letter to that effect.

Report of Meeting Re: TPOCD with Glen Chalder (11/20): Susan Payne reported that discussion continued on the Development Section of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Ms. Payne once again reminded members of the availability of the workbook which coincides with the work being done on the Plan of Conservation and Development, the workbook is located in the Land Use office. Also Susan reminded members to submit any suggestions in writing to Janet Hill, Planning Commission secretary. The next Special meeting of the Planning Commission for work on the Town Plan of Conservation and Development is December 17th at 4:00pm.

Cell Tower Committee Report (Meeting 11/20): Phil Markert and his subcommittee met with Bob Fairbairn of Radio Communications Association this morning to discuss placement of cell towers in Washington. At present there are two applications which affect the Town of Washington. One proposed site is on the Kimberly Farm off of Route 109 in New Milford and secondly a proposal for the steeple in the New Preston Congregational Church. There is also a proposed future site located off of Rabbit Hill in Warren. Working with Mr. Fairbairn Mr. Markert hopes to compile information that will be used to

suggest locations for cell tower placement in Washington. Phil feels that cell service is a federal and state priority and he wants to be proactive. The Washington Environmental Council is paying for Bob Fairbairn's services and the Conservation Commission is grateful to them for their contribution.

Town of Washington - Accepting land: Ruth Alex is researching the proper and legal way for the Conservation Commission to accept easements from the Planning Commission. Ruth has been in contact with Atty. Mike Ziska, Tom O'Dell of CAIWCC, and Tom McGowan. Easements may be acquired by a majority vote at a Town meeting or the Selectman may accept easements. Atty. David Miles will research this for Ruth also. The process would be too long if all acquisitions were to go to a Town meeting. Ms. Alex presented a map and copy of an easement for the Nassar/Uruburu/Schneider property at 121 West Church Hill Road. The Planning Commission required open space set asides for this subdivision. Members felt the easements will protect the natural character of the land. First Selectman Elaine Luckey has accepted these easements and at the Selectmen's meeting on November 21st will charge the Conservation Commission to oversee their management.

Subcommittee Reports:

Scenic Vistas/Roads: no report

Greenway: Saturday November 23rd Elaine Luckey will be leading a walk to Mt. Tom.

Flora: Betsy Corrigan has met with her subcommittee which includes Natalie Dyer, Susan Branson, Robbie Barnett, Linda Potter and Dirk Sabin. Betsy, Susan and Natalie are working on invasive species in Steep Rock. Betsy would like to use this work and possible work on town owned sites as an educational tool for the public. Ms. Corrigan also spoke of road side control and timed cutting of roadsides. She identified Lake Waramaug and Meeker Swamp as important "bird areas". Information on a Biodiversity Project was circulated. Betsy would like to pursue this project with area towns and have it mesh with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Dirk Sabin continues to work on the town arboretum. Betsy has spoken with Rex Swain about posting invasive species information on the Town web site. She would also like to set up an educational outreach area with pamphlets etc., located in a place with a high volume of community traffic. Ms. Corrigan feels that more work needs to be done in advising other commissions and alerting them to site specific problems. Bridging the gap between science and land use. Betsy had a copy of "Best Development Practices - Conserving Pool-Breeding Amphibians in Residential and Commercial Developments in the Northeastern United States. Secretary, Pam Osborne will order a copy for the Conservation Commission and Candace Korzenko will tell the Inland/Wetland Commission about the publication. Lastly Betsy reports that state archeologist Nick Bellantoni is working on a town parcel map to identify archeological information.

Water Resources: no report

New-appoint committee to create Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet - identify committee

members: It was agreed that new people are needed and representation from commissions is needed. Candace Korzenko agreed to be on the committee and Liz Dexheimer also agreed to join.

There being no new business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is December 4th at 7:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary