

December 18, 2002

Present: Susan Payne, Joe Gitterman, Phil Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank, Linda Potter

Guest: Kelly Boling

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

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

Linda Frank and Linda Potter were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2002 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4th meeting with the following additions to paragraph three; They agreed that the easement would be beneficial to preserving the road side, buffering and protecting the rural/rugged landscape. Also adding the following comment to the end of paragraph three: Joe Gitterman recommended the word management be replaced with monitoring. Linda Potter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Chairman, Susan Payne informed members that terms expire in January 2003 for Joe Gitterman, Linda Potter and herself. Joe and Susan will be reappointed to a three year term and need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk before the January meeting. Linda Potter is stepping down from the Conservation Commission but will remain active on Greenway and Betsy Corrigan's sub-committee flora/fauna. Ms. Payne then introduced Kelly Boling who will be appointed to a three year term, to replace Ms. Potter and also needs to be sworn in before the January meeting.

Referrals from other commissions: Susan Payne had a map with the landscape buffer plan for the Housing Trust's proposal at 16 Church Street. Dirk Sabin, Landscape Architect designed the plan. Mr. Sabin worked with existing plantings and used native species, creating buffers in areas where headlights would shine and create screening for utility and garbage sites. This planting will not be full and dense immediately. Joe Gitterman was concerned about the sight line on to Hinckley Road with the (3) parking spaces that allow people to back out onto Hinckley Road. There was discussion on the traffic issue. Susan Payne informed members that a traffic study will be done. Kelly Boling also asked if the dogwood tree located on the Hinckley Road driveway side (the one that is set back from the road) be an evergreen to create more screening. The Zoning Commission will do a site visit on January 5, 2003 and the Public Hearing is continued until January 13, 2003.

Report of 12/17 Planning Meeting with Chalder: Susan Payne reported that discussion was about the Business Districts in; the Depot, New Preston, Marbledale and Woodville. Members should look to the minutes from the meeting for further details.

Cell Tower Committee Report: There will be a public hearing on January 27, 2003 to amend the Zoning regulations with respect to cell towers. Phillip Markert displayed maps depicting potential cell tower coverage or "service area" with the (3) proposed cell tower locations; Route 109 in New Milford, the Congregational Church in New Preston and Rabbit Hill in Warren. He commented that most coverage was limited to the 202 corridor. There was some discussion on potential health concerns and Phil stated that there is a sufficient lack of conclusive evidence for health issues. Mr. Markert also had pictures of various types of cell towers disguised as trees, flag poles, as well as the regular "looking" cell tower. During work with his subcommittee Phil has learned that companies can add panels to existing cell

towers, cut the height of the towers and have less antennas by combining technology. The next step for the cell tower subcommittee is to provide information to Hank Martin. Pam Osborne, secretary is working on a write up by Phil Markert this will wind up his subcommittees work.

Collaboration with Washington Environmental Council (WEC): no new information

Canoe Brook Status Report: no new information

Town of Washington - Accepting land: no report

Subcommittee Reports:

a. Scenic Vistas/Roads - Joe's subcommittee has cut the first draft down in size and simplified the language. The document is being circulated again for further input from subcommittee members.

b. Greenway - next meeting date January 7, 2003 at 4:30pm.

c. Flora/Fauna - no report

d. Water Resources - Kirby Brook evaluation - no report

e. New-appoint committee to create Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet - identify members - Pam Osborne, secretary circulated a memo to Land Use Commissions and others.

Other Business:

Susan Payne forwarded a memo to George Bender, Chairman of the Planning Commission addressing the Conservation Commission and Greenways interest in the "Old Town Garage Site" future plans.

Joe Gitterman asked if anyone other than the Town of Washington had been approached about the easement for the 121 West Church Hill Road property. Joe felt that is was the wrong way to set precedent for acquiring future easements, no one asked for the Conservation Commissions input. Susan Payne stated that by state statute and as a result of the Planning Commission regulations the Conservation Commission is committed to accepting these easements. There was discussion on the burden of monitoring these easements, contracting with an outside party to do the monitoring and the need to budget for the monitoring expense. Joe stated that policy needs to be established for accepting these easements. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

Pam Osborne was asked to generate maps from the digitized mapping system. Chris Charles requested (3) maps. Members discussed fees for these maps - it was decided to charge \$5.00 per map.

Linda Frank informed members that the Lake Waramaug Task Force has created a strategic plan which includes weekly checks for invasive species, attending local Zoning meetings of the (3) towns, etc. The Task Force is also concerned with watershed preservation and will continue the trout stocking.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is January 15, 2003 at 7:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary

