

December 2, 2009

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

Members Present: Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Phil Markert

Absent: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Ric Sonder, Alt., Betsy Corrigan, Alt., Phil Dutton, Alt., Dirk Sabin, Advisor

Staff Present: Shelley White

Guests:

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Phil Markert

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the November 4, 2009 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Motion:

to accept the November 4, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as submitted, by Ms. Payne, seconded by Mr. Markert, passed by 2-0-1 vote. Mr. Boling abstained since he was not at the November meeting.

108 New Milford Turnpike Update:

Ms. Payne stated that the remediation is scheduled for December 8th –10th. She stated that Russ Dirienzo would have a report to the Selectman's Office by December 22nd. The Town is hoping to close on the property before the end of the year.

Subcommittee Reports

Cell Tower Update:

Mr. Markert stated that he and Ms. Dupuis attended the meeting with Selectman Lyon and SBA's Attorney, Carrie Larson Friday at 9:30 on November 13, 2009 in the Land Use Meeting Room. Mr. Markert stated that Ms. Dupuis presented her case that the Town of Washington's Conservation Commission's opinion is that it is not a good idea to proceed with this application as SBA does not have a piece of property that is a viable site because of the driveway and easement issues and some of the property owners are not in agreement of this site. Ms. Larson stated that the driveway issue was between the landowners. Mr. Markert stated that he has talked with a consultant regarding the technical aspects of locating cell towers in towns with terrain like Washington. Ms. Payne stated that Selectman Lyon received a letter from the Connecticut Siting Council, dated November 20, 2009 regarding his request for a Telecommunications Coverage Assessment of Washington (on file in Land Use Office). Mr. Markert stated that he would send a letter to the CSC thanking them for their response to Selectman Lyon's inquiry, asking that they represent the Town of Washington as well as proposing regular meetings with a technical group from the CSC and a group of people from the T.O.W. to develop a cell phone coverage plan. Ms. Payne opened a letter to Ms. Dupuis, from the CSC, dated November 30, 2009, stating that they had not received an application for a telecommunications facility located on Couch Road, in Warren, CT, and that they would keep her letter on file under the appropriated docket, when the application is made. Mr. Boling discussed how WiFi networks could improve the cell phone coverage in the Depot and he volunteered to email Selectman Lyon discussing this option.

Decommission Extraneous Town Street Lights:

Mr. Boling stated that he researched how much the Town spends operating streetlights. He stated that he believed that eliminating certain lights around Town that are not needed would save the Town money and decrease light pollution. The Commissioners discussed how they should obtain a map of existing streetlights, and then consulting Selectman Lyon and the Police to discuss which ones are necessary and which ones could possibly be eliminated.

Conservation Design Subdivisions:

The Conservation Commission is still circulating the Arendt books.

New Business

There was a brief discussion regarding clear cutting of trees and ridgeline protection. The Commissioners discussed the possibility and usefulness of a three dimensional topographical map of the Town of Washington.

Other Business

The Commissioners briefly discussed the progress of the Town Beach.

Motion: to adjourn by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 5:42 pm

Submitted subject to approval,