

December 3, 2003

Present: Chairperson Susan Payne* left at 5:45pm, Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman* arrived at 5:30pm., Phillip Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Elaine Luckey

Guests: First Selectman Dick Sears

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Alternates: Diane Dupuis and Elaine Luckey were seated.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the November 5, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Phil Markert made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5th meeting, Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: none

West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement: no activity

Road Discontinuation 11/12 Town Meeting: The town meeting went well, all of the roads proposed for discontinuation except the Tinker Hill Road section became discontinued roads. Ms. Payne expressed her happiness with how responsive the town was in meeting the public's concerns. Kelly Boling has met with First Selectman Dick Sears; Mr. Sears would like to see these efforts continued. Members discussed the ability of the town to control activities on the discontinued roads. Mr. Markert pointed out that the laws are vague about activities on the discontinued roads. Kelly has been in contact with Hank Martin, Zoning Commission Chairman and has a proposed regulation for Section 12 of the Zoning Regulations pertaining to discontinued roads and abandoned highways. He will email it to members. Mr. Boling offered Elaine Luckey a spot on his subcommittee which she eagerly accepted. Congrats to Kelly for a fine job.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: Linda Frank has started her work reviewing the Town Owned Properties. There are several small pieces (land located on the Litchfield Boarder, Slaughterhouse Road and Bee Brook Road) that the town might look at giving up. There was once again much discussion on the proper monitoring of these parcels. Linda Frank and Elaine Luckey will walk and scope out the Town Owned Parcels, this is a good winter project.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: This work is stalled waiting for the grant.

School Connection (SVHS) and Gunnery/Environmental Club: no activity

Cell Tower: no activity Mr. Sears did mention that he noticed the tower on Route 109 at the Kimberly Farm, in New Milford is up.

Land Use Data Management: no activity

Flora & Fauna: no activity

Greenway: The committee met in the Connecticut Room of the Gunn Memorial Library and worked on points of interest for the Greenway.

Land Use Info/ Welcome Pamphlet Committee: Members had a good session in November and will meet again on December 17th.

Scenic Road: Work continues on the How-To packet for people applying for Scenic Road designation. Joe would like to make available an up-to-date set of the Assessors maps in the Land Use office for applicants to use, the cost would be about \$150, Chairperson Susan Payne said that would be fine. Members also discussed sending a letter to residents along a newly designated Scenic Road with information on what it means to live on a Scenic Road. Elaine Luckey went on the say that it's a very murky area as to what you can and cannot do along a Scenic Road. Elaine will pursue information on clarification of the rules for scenic roads. Mr. Sears pointed out that the issues concerning the physical road maintenance need to be addressed also. Joe has a book on designating State Roads as Scenic. The secretary, Pam Osborne brought up the question of the application fee, which was left blank in the Scenic Road Ordinance. Joe Gitterman felt it was the Planning Commission's place to set the fee.

Water Resources: Phil Markert noted that testing of the river running from Route 63 through Rumsey Hall School showed that all was fine.

Other Business

MOTION: Kelly Boling made a motion to accept the 2004 meeting dates as submitted, Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The terms for Kelly Boling and Diane Dupuis will expire on January 1st of 2004. Kelly and Diane are both willing to be reappointed and need to be sworn in before the January 7th meeting.

A reminder that at the January 7th meeting members also need to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is January 7, 2003 at 5:30pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary