

December 4, 2002

Present: Chairman, Susan Payne, Phillip Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank, Linda Potter

Guests: Elaine Luckey, First Selectman

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

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

Linda Frank and Linda Potter were seated as alternates.

Approval of the minutes of the November 20, 2002 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20th meeting with the following addition to page 2, paragraph 3 under Subcommittee Reports, Flora has been changed to Flora & Fauna, Phil Markert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: There being no official referrals from other commissions members concluded discussion on two properties (Cass/DePecol at 46 June Road & Rizzo/James at 129 Bee Brook Road) from the November 20th meeting.

Susan Payne read a memo she submitted to The Inland Wetland Commission regarding the Cass/DePecol. Members were confident that Candace Korzenko would relay our input to The Inland Wetland Commission about the Rizzo/James property at 129 Bee Brook Road.

West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement: Susan Payne, Betsy Corrigan and Elaine Luckey did a site visit to the Nassar/Uruburu/Schneider property at 121 West Church Hill Road. They agreed that the easement would be beneficial to preserving the road side. First Selectman, Elaine Luckey clarified that she has accepted the conservation easement but has not yet turned it over to the Conservation Commission for management.

Cell Tower Committee Report: Phil Markert began by informing the commission that there are three applications pending that affect the Town of Washington (Route 109 in New Milford, New Preston Congregational Church & Rabbit Hill Road in Warren). Phil felt that taking the simple approach of asking the cell tower companies to modify the towers was the way to go. Modification meaning cutting the height of the towers, asking that they look like trees, asking all carriers to use the same antenna and allowing town and emergency agencies use of the tower. Bob Fairbairn has produced five maps showing various locations and frequencies of cell towers. At this point Mr. Markert feels the subcommittee has done what it set out to do, which was educate themselves on cell towers. His desire is to recap what has been learned, include Mr. Fairbairn's maps and present this to the Conservation Commission, which will then forward the information to Hank Martin and the Zoning Commission. The Zoning Commission represents the Town of Washington on cell tower issues and at this point Phil feels that giving the Zoning Commission the information and the offer to assist them in any way is the best way to wrap things up. This will also wrap up the joint effort between the Conservation Commission and the Washington Environmental Council.

Susan Payne offered members a copy of a letter written by Debra R. Avery dated November 19, 2002 regarding the AT&T cell tower application for the New Preston Congregational Church (the letter will be filed with the December 4th minutes). Discussion ensued on the Zoning Regulations regarding cell tower placement, the town's jurisdiction over the New Preston application and potential health issues.

Canoe Brook Status: Linda Frank continues to work with Randy Bernard and Elaine Luckey on figures for this project and getting prepared for work in the spring.

Town of Washington - Accepting Land: no report

Subcommittee Reports:

Scenic Vistas/Road: Joe Gitterman is continuing to work on the first draft of a Scenic Road Ordinance.

Greenway: Greenway met on Tuesday December 3rd. Susan Payne will draft a letter to the Planning Commission about their interest in the Old town Garage site. The work at the Washington Primary School site all came together. Work continues on the East Aspetuck River Greenway and Kelly Boiling has been appointed chair of the Highway Discontinuation Committee.

Flora & Fauna: no report

Water Resources: Randy Bernard will be doing testing at various locations along the Kirby Brook.

Other Business:

Susan Payne informed members that the minutes from the Planning Commissions Special Meeting of November 19th relate to the Conservation Commission, specifically open space set aside and fee in lieu.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela I. Osborne, Secretary