

December 7, 2005

Present: Susan Payne Chairperson, Kelly Boling, Linda Frank, Joe Gitterman

Alternates: Betsy Corrigan, Diane Dupuis, Dan Sherr

Members are asked to email (conservation@washingtonct.org) or call Pam at (868-0423) if you can not attend a meeting.

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

Diane Dupuis was seated as an alternate.

MOTION: approval of the minutes from the November 2, 2005 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Kelly Boling made a motion to approve the minutes of November 2nd with the following amendments: page 2, paragraph two, the third line replace timer with timber, the fourth line add the following *may be necessary*. Betsy Corrigan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals or new projects: Members were set to review a conservation easement for the Myfield project at 7 Mygatt Road, but Kelly Boling stated that the conservation easement is not yet finalized, so members will look at this easement at a later date. Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman and Betsy Corrigan will recuse themselves from discussion on the Myfield project as they are personally involved with the project.

There was preapplication discussion for a subdivision on Popple Swamp Road at the last Planning Commission meeting.

The Town of New Milford informed Washington that they have an application for a five lot single family subdivision located at 33 Church Hill Road, which is within 500' of the Washington town line. They will be forwarding copies of the application to the Washington Inland/Wetlands Commission.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space Committee: This committee is not meeting in December. After the New Year they will work on prioritizing parcels for open space preservation and are planning neighborhood conversations.

Ridgeline Protection: Linda Frank states that the Zoning Commission is still focused on ridgelines; they are looking at creating zones for preservation. This was not the sub-committees suggestion; they were looking more at elevation and slope restrictions. Linda has sent a note to new chairman David Owen offering help with these regulations. Susan Payne has spoken with Hank Martin as well; Mr. Martin stated that they will be requesting help from the Conservation Commission with zone regulations to protect views. Kelly Boling made the suggestion of requiring a view shed impact analysis for certain parcels.

Archaeological Resources Protection: Betsy Corrigan is keeping in touch with Bill Fairbairn of the Planning Commission.

Land Use Data Management/training of Town Land Use staff: Kelly Boling will be working on setting up the projector for the Arc View program in January.

Greenway: This committee has taken a couple of months off, but will meet in January. First Selectman Dick Sears has asked them to look at possibilities for passive recreation at the Old Town Garage site.

Management and Monitoring of Town properties: There are still a couple of monitoring reports due that are expected by January. A binder for Town of Washington Conservation Easements monitoring reports is now located in the Land Use office.

Scenic Road: Joe Gitterman has nothing new to report.

Canoe Brook: nothing new to report.

Cell Tower: The Town of Washington has been approached by Verizon to install a cell tower on town property at the New Preston firehouse. This proposal will be discussed at the December 15th Board of Selectmen meeting. Susan Payne has spoken to Dick Sears, First Selectman and has referred him to Phil Markert, who was on the cell tower subcommittee. Diane Dupuis is appalled that the First Selectman seems receptive to this proposal. Diane is very concerned with the RF exposure as the tower is in close proximity to the firehouse as well as Quarry Ridge condominiums. Susan Payne felt that Dick Sears was only responding to a request at this point. Ms. Dupuis went on to state that she felt the Cell Tower subcommittee report was faulty because it did not take into consideration health risks. Ms. Payne encourages members to attend the December 15th Board of Selectmen's meeting, which starts at 4:30pm.

Flora & Fauna: Betsy Corrigan is continuing her work on the "forest under story pamphlet" and identifying areas for invasive species eradication.

Water Resources Monitoring and Protection: Dan Sherr reports that Randy Bernard continues his work with Gunnery students testing the waters of the Shepaug. The WEC (Washington Environmental Council) spring newsletter will highlight the Shepaug River.

Best Development Practices: Members looked over Kelly Boling's outline of potential content for the "Best Development Practices" brochure. Kelly Boling, Betsy Corrigan, Susan Payne, Patte Doran and Linda Frank are interested in being on this sub committee. Susan Payne will solicit other interested people from other Land Use committees.

Other Business

Members were given a memo and information on "Upland Review Area" from Janet Hill.

Janet Hill contacted Susan Payne about displaying some of the maps from the Natural Resource Inventory Report in the Land Use meeting room. They could be matted and framed; Joe Gitterman offered to get this done. Ms. Payne suggested looking through the maps we have and choosing some to display. Discussion went on to the need and process for updating these maps. It was also brought to the attention of members that there should be a map of "Scenic Roads" which is kept up to date. Joe Gitterman keeps track on a map of his own.

Members also briefly discussed historical structures, not within the Historical Districts and creating a basis for preservation.

Members were reminded that the terms for Susan Payne, Joe Gitterman and Dan Sherr are up in January. All expressed interest in staying on the Conservation Commission; Susan Payne will contact the Selectmen's office about reappointments.

Members were also reminded that election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson need to be done at January's meeting.

A list of 2006 meeting dates were given to members.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is January 4, 2006 at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary