

# February 4, 2009

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

**Members Present:** Susan Payne, Linda Frank, Kelly Boling, Diane Dupuis, Ric Sonders, Alt., Betsy Corrigan, Alt., Phil Dutton

**Guests:** Mark Lyon, First Selectman

**Staff Present:** Shelley White

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and seated members Kelly Boling, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt., and herself.

Diane Dupuis was elected as a Commissioner, replacing Joe Gitterman who resigned. Phil Dutton is a new Alternate. Ms. Payne and the Conservation Commission expressed their great appreciation for Mr. Gitterman's service, especially with Scenic Road. Mr. Gitterman was with the Conservation Commission since it's inception.

## **Consideration of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Dec. 10, 2008 meeting were accepted with the following amendments:

Page 1-4

-Ric Sonders should read Ric Sonder

Page 1

-6th line under Referrals or New Projects should read: Mr. Clark stated the Planning Commission

Page 2

-6th line from top of page should read: Mr. Boling said the Conservation Commission generally prefers to....

-12th line should read...ft. Deep to make up to 5-6 acres with a reserved right to install driveway and utilities. All other proposed easement areas indicated on the site plan...

-9th line under BEC Holdings add the Conservation Commission and Mr. Carusillo discussed having Brian Neff, Engineer do a Baseline Report for the property.

Page 3

-end of first paragraph: Add: Mr. Charles and the Commission agreed to add to section 2.1.0 of the proposed Malkin Easement that any activities near the brook must conform the Inland/Wetlands Regulations.

-under Camp Windgauge: Add to the end of the paragraph: Mr. Charles requested a letter endorsing the project from the Conservation Commission.

Page 4

-under Cell Tower Update, 7th line should read: ...challenged Optasite representatives as to whether or not the propagation map presented at the last...

Motion: to accept the December 10, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as corrected, by Linda Frank, seconded by Kelly Boling, by 5-0 vote.

## **Appointments and Election of Officers, Meeting Schedule for 2009**

Motion: to nominate Susan Payne Chairman of the Conservation Commission by Mr. Boling, seconded by Ms. Frank, by 5-0 vote.

Motion: to nominate Kelly Boling Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission by

Ms. Payne invited Mark Lyon, First Selectman to discuss possible parcel for Open Space acquisition and provide feedback.

Motion: to go into executive session to discuss potential parcel for acquisition for Open Space, by Kelly Boling, seconded by Linda Frank, by 5-0 vote.

Motion: to come out of executive session discussing potential parcel for acquisition for Open Space, by Kelly Boling, seconded by Diane Dupuis, by 5-0.

### **Referrals or new projects**

Ms. Payne updated the Commission on the current proposed plan for the property, 'Judson's Rock'. She has asked Mike Ajello, ZEO, to allow the Conservation Commission to see the proposed plans when they are finished so that the commission can provide feedback regarding concerns, etc.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### Model Conservation Easement:

Mr. Boling stated that the Chairman of the IWC has approved the model and since the Inlands/Wetlands Commission will be using this he feels it is important that all members of IWC should review it. Ms. Payne stated there needs to be a permanent marking system for the easements. This is important for monitoring purposes. It will be the property owner's responsibility to obtain a survey and mark the easement. Ms. Payne asked the commissioners for input on the style of markers to be used. Different options were discussed. Ms. Payne offered to consult with Harry White, Ecologist and get back to the commission.

#### Cell Tower Update:

Ms. Dupuis said that she does not have any updates.

#### Scenic Road:

Mr. Boling stated that he has been in touch with Colleen Kissane, Chairperson of the Scenic Road Advisory Committee of the D.O.T. Ms. Kissane stated that she and the S.R.A. Committee would set up a day to come down and meet with the Conservation Commission. This meeting would also serve as a type of 'hearing' for the designation request. The tentative plan is for the S.R.A. to come down on either the regularly scheduled CC March or April Meeting or arrange something that is mutually convenient for both parties.

#### Greenway:

Ms. Payne stated she has talked with Ray Underwood, President of Village Improvement. Mr. Underwood told Ms. Payne the invasive plants at New Preston Falls were taken care of and other native plants were planted.

#### Management and Monitoring of Town Properties:

Ms. Frank and Ms. Payne had gone out in December and did not find any violations on current easements. Mr. Boling reminded the committee about a previous discussion regarding possible plantings around the playground at Nick Platt Field. There was a discussion as to what funds could be used to expedite this project.

#### Stream Buffers:

Ms. Payne asked the committee members if the CC should be educating the people of the Town of Washington regarding buffers along streams and watercourses. They discussed different mediums that could be used to do this i.e. mailings, town newsletter, or brochures. Mr. Dutton questioned whether the Inland/Wetlands Regulations contain guidelines that serve as guidelines. Ms. Payne suggested that a letter be sent to any grantor of an easement that includes a stream/watercourse. This letter could explain the

concern and educate them regarding the maintenance of a buffer and how it benefits water quality and habitat value. Mr. Boling asked Ms. Payne if there was enough money in the operating budget to possibly send out an annual mailing to the residents of the town. Everyone agreed this was a good idea. Ms. Payne stated they would most likely be able to fund a mailing. Mr. Dutton and Ms. Corrigan volunteered to work on this.

## **2009 Goal Setting**

### Historic New England Stonewall Protection:

Ms. Corrigan stated that she has started mapping stonewalls in town using aerial photographs which has turned out to be time consuming. She stated that she has started to map the roadside walls and does not feel that the interior walls should be recorded. She believes this would be a valuable tool for conservation.

### Conservation Design Subdivisions:

Ms. Payne stated that she and David Owen of Zoning had exchanged emails regarding Conservation Design Subdivisions (see TPOCD page 7-8, Sections A & B). Mr. Owen expressed that if the CC would like to work on this section, Zoning Commission would be willing to consider it.

## **Old Business**

### Conservation Easement Model –Status report re: Planning & Town Counsel:

Mr. Boling suggested that the model be sent to David Miles and I/W could contact him with any changes. Ms. Payne agreed.

### Archaeological Resource Protection in Town Regs:

Ms. Corrigan stated the language has been submitted to the Planning Commission who is just starting to look at it. It had been on hold due to full agendas in the past months. She also discussed a possible municipal ordinance that would allow a demolition delay of antique buildings that are outside of a protected historic district.

6:55 pm

Motion: to adjourn by Ms. Payne, by 5-0 vote.

SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL,

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley White  
Land Use Clerk