

March 1, 2006

Present: Chairperson Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Linda Frank

Alternate: Dan Sherr

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

Dan Sherr was seated as an alternate.

Minutes 2/1/2006: Conservation Commission members reviewed the February 1, 2006 minutes of their meeting. They made the following amendments: on page 1, third line from page bottom *Kelly* should replace Kellie; on page 2, under Depot Study, the eighth sentence should read Kelly Boling felt that *increased* growth in the village centers *should be linked to decreased* growth outside the village centers.

MOTION: Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from the February 1, 2006 meeting of the Conservation Commission, seconded by Dan Sherr, passed unanimously.

Referrals or new projects:

72 Upper Church Hill Road application: as a follow up to last month's discussion Susan Payne forwarded a letter with the Conservation Commission's suggestions to the Planning Commission. Betsy Corrigan submitted a letter from the DEP about the threatened/endangered species and has put together a list of recommended shrubs to plant; Pamela Osborne will forward both documents to the Planning Commission.

Spring Hill Farm, 79 Whittlesey Road: Members looked over the file for this application which is before the Inland Wetlands Commission. They felt that the increase in footprint was modest and were pleased with the upgrades to environmental management systems to modern standards. Other pluses were the decrease in impervious surfaces and moving the structure back away from the pond. Susan Payne will draft a letter and circulate it to members.

Best Development Practices brochure: No volunteers from other Land Use Commissions have come forward except Patte Doran. Susan Payne will invite Patte to the April Conservation meeting, when members will go over Kelly Boling outline.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space Committee: Dan Sherr stated that the Open Space Committee has discussed a lot; he is looking for a way to engage the committee with open space issues. Susan Payne suggested doing a "road trip" to get a visual perspective of what is "real" open space and what is perceived. Mr. Sherr brought up the subject of a 61 acre parcel on Wheaton Road that's up for sale; this property is partially in New Milford.

Ridgeline Protection: Linda Frank distributed the document she submitted to the Zoning Commission for their consideration

Archaeological Resources Protection: Betsy Corrigan has spoken to Bill Fairbairn, the Planning Commission discussed protection of archeological resources but was busy with the Depot Study and other things but is moving it to front burner; will have something (hopefully) for us by CC April meeting. One

concern was that archeological assessments might drag out projects. Betsy informed Bill that Nick Bellantoni's office strives to work within project time frame, accommodating the developer's schedule.

Planning is also considering stonewall protection measures.

Land Use Data Management/training of Town Hall Land Use Staff:Pamela Osborne has been asked to take up this cause. Pam contacted George Blake for assistance; George was to get back to Pam with names of people who might help assist the staff. Members discussed contacting Harry White.

Greenway: Susan Payne stated that the Greenway committee will be meeting on Monday March 6th. Susan has invited Ray Reich, Park & Rec member to discuss joint ventures.

Management and Monitoring of Town properties: all set till Fall

Scenic Road: no report

Canoe Brook: no report

Cell Tower Update: no report

Flora & Fauna: Betsy Corrigan reports that compilation of Washington's invasives photos near completion. Ready to send to Rex Swain soon; goal is to have it ready --online-- by CC April meeting.

Betsy is also working on a Washington Habitat Map, she reports it is almost ready and found that DEP stream layer does not correspond to streams on USGS topo mapsections of streams are missing from DEP layer; need to draw them in manually.

Ms. Corrigan also addressed the Town's logging regulations and suggested seeing what other town's have for regs. She is willing to contact Larry Rousseau, the DEP's Western CT District Forester, to see which towns have the best regs. She thinks that as it stands now, loggers only need a permit from our selectmen's office and they also have to post a bond (in case of any damage to roads due to weight of logging trucks).

Water Resources: no report

33 Church Hill Road: As a follow up to commission discussion in January, no correspondence was sent to New Milford, because of the very small triangle of land affected is Washington members felt correspondence wasn't necessary.

Members took time to go through maps in the Natural Resource Inventory Report and Plan of Conservation and Development to identify maps for mounting. Susan Payne will contact Joe Gitterman with the ten maps to be mounted and displayed in the Land Use Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

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

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary