

March 19, 2003

Present: Susan Payne, Chairperson, Betsy Corrigan, Joe Gitterman

Alternates: Kelly Boling, Linda Frank

Guests: Elaine Luckey, First Selectman; Mark Daft, reporter from Voices

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

Susan Payne, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Kelly Boling and Linda Frank were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes of the March 5, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5th meeting. Kelly Boling seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other commissions:

There were no referrals from other commissions.

Susan Payne informed members that the Inland Wetland Commission has scheduled a site visit for the application at 67/69 Carmel Hill Road for Saturday March 22nd at 8:30am and also reminded members of the public hearing being held on March 26th at 6:30pm on this same property. Regarding the above mentioned application Ms. Payne referenced the minutes of the February 12th meeting of the Inland Wetland Commission in which Margie Purnell recommended referring the application for 67/69 Carmel Hill Road to the Conservation Commission. Susan will speak with Dorothy Hill, Chairperson of the Inland Wetland Commission to clarify that the Conservation Commission has already been presented with the project, on February 5th by Dirk Sabin, and have issued written comments to the Inland Wetland Commission on February 21st.

Scenic Road Ordinance:

Joe Gitterman was present to introduce his subcommittee's proposed "Scenic Road Ordinance". All Conservation Commission members were mailed Draft #4 dated 2/17/2003 which was the most recent draft by this subcommittee. Joe began by thanking his subcommittee: the "work horses" behind this committee were Rebecca Bent and Walter Andrew and other members who helped were Chick Treadway, Bill Bader, Roger Cannavaro and Dimitri Rimsky. Mr. Gitterman's subcommittee began by gathering ordinances from other towns, which ranged in length from three (3) to thirty (30) pages. Their goal was to pick language that was easy to understand, the hardest part was being in compliance with state statutes. Their first draft was thirty to forty percent (30%-40%) larger than their final document. Joe feels the subcommittee has come up with a simple straight forward document. Susan Payne interjected that she felt having Roger Cannavaro on the subcommittee was very helpful. Joe went on to state that in the Town of Kent the First Selectman felt that having a "scenic road ordinance" created a lot of work for the town, but Joe felt that the communication between the community and the town was a positive thing. Mr. Gitterman feels that outside of neighbors roads have the greatest impact on people. The proposed "scenic road ordinance" creates the ability to create scenic roads and does not create the scenic roads. People in the community initiate the process. Joe walked members through the proposed ordinance. Section IV on Alterations, Maintenance and Reconstruction is very lengthy and wordy; Joe feels this is the section that would create the most misunderstandings and problems. Roger Cannavaro and Walter Andrew did the work on Section IV. Several members were concerned with the wording in Section IV / B / 2g about installation of reflectors and signs. Members felt they wanted signage held to a safe minimum. Joe will

address this with Walter Andrew. Suggestions were also made to provide a map showing the area to be designated and a list of property owners. The next step will be to have the document reviewed by Janet Hill; Joe will make corrections and get a clean copy to her. After being reviewed by Ms. Hill if further review is needed the Conservation Commission will see it at its next meeting. Susan Payne will speak with George Bender, Chairman of the Planning Commission who is ultimately responsible for the ordinance. Members discussed when was the best time to bring the "scenic road ordinance" before the Town of Washington. Joe Gitterman doesn't want town's people to feel pushed/rushed into accepting this ordinance; members agreed that the fall Town Meeting would be a better opportunity to present the "scenic road ordinance". Elaine Luckey, First Selectman agreed with members because at the present time the Planning Commission is fully involved with the Plan of Conservation and Development. Kelly Boling interjected that creating a "scenic road ordinance" was suggested in both the 1993 Plan of Conservation and Development and the Natural Resource Inventory Report. Susan Payne added that the minutes from Conservation Commission meetings reflect the work that has been ongoing and are available to everyone via the Town website and through the Town Clerk's office.

Land Management Discussion:

Kelly Boling came prepared with an outline regarding land management criteria. Members felt that locations for open space designation should not be prioritized and added the following suggestions for open space parcels: land contiguous with existing open space and areas designated for open space corridors. Members realize that each designation is parcel specific and should be reviewed on a case by case basis. Joe Gitterman stated that the use of a bond needs more research for specifics. Pertaining to the area of monitoring and maintenance members asked that private schools in the Town of Washington be utilized also. Susan read a memo, dated March 17th, directed to Elaine Luckey, First Selectman from George Bender, Planning Commission Chairman. The memo pertained to establishing a fund for open space purposes and accepting gifts of land as open space. Mr. Bender has asked these issues be researched by David Miles, Esq. Ms. Luckey stated that the selectmen have requested a sum of \$50,000 for a land acquisition fund from the Board of Finance.

Report from 3/18/03 TPOCD:

There was no meeting with Planimetrics. The Planning Commission expects to have the first draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development at its April special meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: no new information

Cell Tower Update: no new information

Data Management: Kelly Boling has Sharon Morrissey on board and will be contacting George Blake.

Flora and Fauna: Betsy Corrigan reports that her subcommittee is moving ahead with their work on invasive species and Natalie Dyer is working on identifying bird areas.

Greenway: no new information

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet Committee: Pam Osborne will update and correct the members list. Susan is hoping to have the first meeting on Tuesday March 25th.

Water Resources: no new information

Other Business:

Susan Payne mentioned the upcoming town newsletter deadline of May 1st; she will work on an article.

Susan also informed members that open space funding on the state level has been deleted from the budget.

The Chairman would like to start working on ridge line preservation. Pam Osborne, secretary will check with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities for ridge line preservation recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is April 2, 2003 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary

The following opportunities are available to members - contact Pam if you are interested.

March 29th - Land Trust Service Bureau - Twentieth Annual Convocation of Connecticut Land Trusts

March 28th & 29th - Our Changing Coast - Private & Public Land Trusts