

# March 2, 2005

**Present:** Chairman Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Betsy Corrigan, Joe Gitterman

**Call to Order:** Susan called the meeting to order at 5:05p.m.

**Minutes: Motion:** To accept the minutes of the February 2, 2005 meeting of the Conservation Commission as submitted. By Susan Payne and unanimously approved.

**Walker Brook Farm Development Discussion:** Plans for this development and an application are presently with the New Milford Inland Wetlands Commission. A Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for 4/14 in New Milford. Susan has been told they are awaiting the Kings Mark report (environmental study) which will then be reviewed by the law firm of Malone and McBroom (?). The Commissioners reviewed the new plans that show the development will use a "conservation cluster approach". The total acreage listed in one section of the specs is 210, (217 in another); the plans show 79 homes being constructed on 90 acres with the remaining acreage being open space. After some discussion, it was decided that Betsy and Kelly would compose a letter to the New Milford Inland Wetlands Commission expressing concerns of the Washington Conservation Commission (traffic, wetlands issues, etc.).

**Annual Report:** Susan asked that the minutes reflect a correction in the Annual Report - Conservation Commission article. The article states the Open Space Committee was established in March 2003, it should read March **2004**.

**Natural Resource Inventory Report:** 100 more copies have been ordered at a cost of \$15/each. Money received from purchases of the report is deposited into the Town's General Fund. Susan will do a press release letting the public know copies of the report are available in the Land Use Office.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Open Space:** Susan reported for Dan Sherr that this sub-committee is working on an action plan regarding a tax abatement that would be given for a conservation easement on a local level. They would like to present this at a special Town Meeting in September.

**Ridgeline Protection:** Members of the Conservation Commission will attend the 3/28 Zoning Commission to discuss.

**Archaeological Resource Protection:** Betsy Corrigan is working on this with Nick Bellantoni, State Archaeologist. Regulations need to be in place in order to enforce archaeological investigations. The Town has an Archaeological Sensitivity Map (in the Natural Resource Inventory Report) however it does need to be updated.

**Land Use Data Management:** Kelly Boling reported that a Town Parcel map meeting will be held on 3/9 with Dick Sears and George Blake.

**Greenways:** Susan reported that the "Point of Interest" guide is in the works. Cindy Brissett is doing the artwork and the guide will hopefully be ready this spring.

**Scenic Roads:** Joe Gitterman reported that an application to designate Nettleton Hollow Road as a "Scenic Road" will be submitted to the Planning Commission. Joe also asked for volunteers to propose other roads that are listed in the Natural Resource Inventory.

**Cell Towers:** Diane Dupuis has emailed the Commissioners regarding a tentative cell tower site on the Tanner Farm in Warren. **Flora and Fauna:** Betsy Corrigan will get more information on invasive plants to Rex Swain for the Town website. She will also try to list sites where people can see examples of the various species.

**Water Resources:** No report.

**NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY REPORT - RECOMMENDATIONS to select projects for implementation:** Discussion followed as to what the Commissioners would like to approach next. Suggestions: **Habitat Map** needs to be updated. Could be modeled after the Archaeological Sensitivity map labeling areas with "potential significance". Information comes from aerial and/or topographical maps. **Greenway in New Preston** possibly linking Weantinogue holdings with Mt. Bushnell State Park area; also bike/walking path that could somehow link the village of New Preston with Lake Waramaug. **Light Pollution** - Susan explained it was her understanding that this is something that may be discussed at a Zoning Commission level. This Commission could offer to work with them on this issue.

Susan asked the Commissioners to review the NRI for recommendations that were made and that need to be followed up on.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene for

Pamela Osborne