

March 3, 2004

Present: Susan Payne Chairperson, Betsy Corrigan, Joe Gitterman

Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Elaine Luckey

Guests: Dan Sherr, Michael Caroe, First Selectman Richard Sears The Chairperson, Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Linda Frank and Diane Dupuis were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the February 4, 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Joe Gitterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4th meeting with the following change: on page one under Greenway the sentence should read as follows - Susan Payne reports Cyndy Brisset has volunteered to do artistic design for the guide. Betsy Corrigan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commission: The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the Taylor/38 New Preston Hill Road application April 6th. Linda Frank reported on the site visit of this property which was on February 14th. Linda described the proposed easement as a strip of land on the east side of the property; visitors did not walk into the property. Ms. Frank mentioned that the horse ring has been dismantled and relocated elsewhere and that there are no immediate plans to build. The hillside appears to be very wet; there is a swale which directs the ground water. Comments were forwarded to the Planning Commission from our February meeting.

Bantam River Watershed Association: Dan Sherr

Dan Sherr who is with the Bantam River Watershed Association came as a guest to familiarize members with the Association. Mr. Sherr dispensed handouts and began by giving a brief history of the Bantam River Watershed Association (BRWA). BRWA was founded in May of 2003 with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and includes the towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris and Washington. The action plan for the Association is to provide preservation, restoration and recreation for the Bantam River Watershed area. They are concerned with urban sprawl and its effects on water quality. Water testing is done at (12) sites (4) times per year as well as (2) heavy flow events. The Association is also looking at developing a park with Bantam at the site of the Northeast Utilities station in Bantam Center which would be the first step to reignite interest in a Greenway. BRWA supports parks, trails and greenways with public access points. Mr. Sherr wants access to Washington commissions and encourages the commissions to keep the Bantam River Watershed Association informed, ask for help and get involved with the educational aspect. Their annual meeting will be held in April. Members thanked Dan for a very informative presentation.

TPOCD: Susan Payne has started to work on an "Open Space Committee". Members thus far include Betsy Corrigan, Patti Doran, Phil Market, Chick Treadway, Darcy Wright, Susan Payne and Dimitri Rimsky Planning Commission representative. Jack Field in an advisory role.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: Linda Frank & Elaine Luckey went to a Selectman's meeting to discuss some of the small parcels that the Town has ownership of. By the next Conservation meeting they should be ready to assign monitoring duties.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: no activity

School Connection (SVHS and Gunnery/Environmental Club): no activity

Cell Tower Update: Diane Dupuis reports that Sprint will be installing a cell tower in the Gooseboro area of Bantam which is (3) miles from the Rabbit Hill location and AT&T still has a hold on the Rabbit Hill location. Diane would like to work on being proactive in locating a site(s) in Washington. She feels there is a need for an RF specialist to assist with location. Joe Gitterman disagrees with the need for locating cell tower locations, using Europe as an example of a place where you don't see cell towers; Joe feels we should fight for different technology, i.e. satellite service. Ms. Dupuis added that Valerie Cooper, a Washington resident, has started up a satellite company. Mr. Sears commented that the people who want the service don't care about the cell tower locations.

Land Use Data Management: no report

Road Discontinuation: no report

Flora & Fauna: Betsy Corrigan circulated copies of (2) drafts A General Approach to Invasive Plant Eradication/Control and a Japanese Knotweed Reporting Form. Betsy stressed that these were drafts and not to be circulated/used. Natalie Dyer continues mapping the Japanese Knotweed. Earth Day has been moved to May 2nd.

Greenway: Work continues on the guide.

Land Use Info/ Welcome Pamphlet Committee: Susan Payne had the draft of this document interested members took copies. Their next step is to look into pricing.

Scenic Road: Joe Gitterman reports Buffum Road is a go for "Scenic Road" status. Gunn Hill Road will be on the Planning agenda in April. Joe also reports that the Planning Commission accepted the \$150.00 application fee. The Planning Commission has asked for baseline photographs and "The Statements In Support of Approval of Scenic Road" be filed with the Town Clerk for all Scenic Road Applications.

Water Resources: see above Bantam River Watershed Assoc.

Other Business:

Susan Payne reported that the property at 121 West Church Hill has changed hands, but there was no update on the CL&P pole / easement situation.

Dick Sears reports that for the upcoming budget selectmen are suggesting that funds be allocated to start two acquisition funds one for housing and one for open space.

Mr. Sears has had conversation with State Senator Andrew Roraback about ongoing negotiations with the DEP and the Town of Washington regarding the Lake Waramaug boat ramp.

A letter was sent to Atty. Michael Zizka about the questions on P/A 490 for open space.

There are upcoming workshops available to members: Designed to Protect-Water Resource Friendly Development and Design Practices on March 16th and What's Legally Required on March 23rd. For more information contact Pam Osborne at the Land Use Office 868-0423.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is April 7, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary