

March 3, 2010

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

Members Present: Susan Payne, Phil Markert, Kelly Boling, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt.

Absent: Ric Sonder, Alt., Phil Dutton, Alt, Dirk Sabin, Advisor

Staff Present: Shelley White

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Phil Markert

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the February 3, 2009 Conservation Commission Meeting were considered.

Corrections:

- Page 3, under 2010 Goals, 3rd paragraph, 3rd sentence should read: He stated that there is no control regarding cutting trees and maybe there should be a better way to monitor this.

Motion:

to accept the February 3, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended, by Ms. Dupuis, seconded by Ms. Frank, passed by 5-0 vote.

Cell Tower

Town Garage Site

Ms. Dupuis stated that a crane was put up at the Town Garage property. The crane was raised to 150, 120, & 110 feet. Ms. Dupuis stated that Susan Branson said she was on the trails behind the site and did not see the crane at 150 feet. The Commission looked at the Site Access Plan and the Compound Plan, prepared for Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Washington Depot, by Natcomm Consulting Engineers, dated 2/5/10 with revision date 2/18/10. The Commission discussed the location of nearby houses. Ms. Dupuis stated that she had talked to Mark Lyon, First Selectman about the lease and recommended to the First Selectman that the lease should be a minimum of \$5,000.00 a month and that there should be at least two companies co-locating on the tower. There was a brief discussion regarding who approves the lease. It was the consensus of the Conservation Commission that Ms. Payne would write a memo to the Board of Finance recommending a minimum amount for the lease as well as requiring co-location on the tower.

House Bill

Ms. Dupuis stated that there is still time to write letters to the Energy & Technology Committee supporting House Bill 5213. Ms. Payne stated that the Environment Committee had a hearing on Monday regarding giving the local land use agencies more authority with siting the telecommunication towers.

Referrals / New Projects

There were no new referrals.

81 Painter Ridge Road/Nettleton/Proposed Deed of Agricultural Restriction:

Ms. Payne stated that all of the changes that the Conservation Commission recommended for the easement were done. She stated that she went on the Planning Commission site walk and gave a brief description of the property.

Meeting of Land Use Chairs & B.O.S. 2/25/10

Ms. Payne stated that she and Mr. Boling attended this meeting. She stated that she gave a brief description of what the Conservation Commission has been working on, and their goals for the future. She stated that she did bring up the regulations regarding telecommunications and that Mr. Owen, Chairman of the Zoning Commission, stated he would leave that section alone but would be open to the Conservation Commission's suggestions to streamlining that section.

Archaeological Resource Protection Map

Ms. Corrigan stated that Dr. Bellantoni has finished the map and it is being sent to the Land Use Office.

Decommission Extraneous Town Street Lights

Mr. Boling received the list of lights in the Town. He suggested that any light that is not on a State road or not on a commercial street or plaza be shut off. He stated that the Resident State Trooper's Office could make recommendations as to what lights should stay on for public safety. It was the consensus of the Conservation Commission that they would contact the Connecticut Council of Municipalities to see if other towns had successfully decommissioned street lights and if there were more attractive and energy efficient lights available.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development

Ms. Payne read a memo that was distributed by the Planning Commission to each Land Use Commission regarding the revision of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development and that they will be requesting comments from each commission to help facilitate updating the current POCD. Ms. Payne reviewed the Implementation section of the 2003 POCD with the Commission. The Commission discussed their responsibilities and what has been accomplished and what still needs further work. There was a brief discussion regarding the maintenance of the recently purchased 108 New Milford Turnpike.

Other Business:

Ms. Payne stated that she went to the Washington Business Association's meeting. She stated that the Association distributes a tote bag that contains brochures, coupons, gift certificates and information on the businesses in the Town to people that have recently closed on properties in town. Ms. Payne suggested that some of the informational land use brochures could be included in these bags.

Mr. Markert stated that the Conservation Commission should set priorities that mesh with the other Land Use Commission's priorities in order for the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development to be successful. He suggested that a professional be hired to advise the Town on its main issues before the POCD is revised. He stated that the Land Use Commissions should have all the work done and know the main goals of all the Land Use Commissions before a consultant is hired and the plan is written. Ms. Payne stated that the Conservation Commissions priorities are Conservation Design Subdivisions, Smart Growth (Septic Issue needs to be addressed), Natural Resource Preservation, Telecommunications, and Community Education. There was a brief discussion about the Telecommunications section of the Zoning Regulations and how it should be summarized and clarified and that the Conservation Commission would work on the rewriting of this section.

Ms. Payne stated that the Greenway Committee met on Monday, March 1 and Earth Day will be Saturday, April 17th. Mr. Peter Talbot will be presenting the Mill Race Road Concept, March 25, 2010 at 5:30 in the Bryan Memorial Town Hall. She urged members of the Commission to check the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition website for upcoming events. The Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley will be holding a seminar on housing, Thursday, March 25th, at 6:30 pm at the Middlebury Library.

Motion:

to adjourn by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:44 pm

Submitted subject to approval,

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk