

April 7, 2004

Present: Susan Payne, Chairperson, Kelly Boling, Betsy Corrigan (arrived at 5:10pm), Joe Gitterman, Phillip Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank, Elaine Luckey

Guests: Press

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

The Chairman, Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Linda Frank and Elaine Luckey were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Elaine Luckey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3rd meeting. Kelly Boling seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The secretary, Pamela Osborne stated that it was brought to her attention that there was an error in the date for term of officers made at the January 2004 meeting of the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Elaine Luckey made a motion to clarify that at the January 7, 2004 meeting of the Conservation Commission a motion was made for the election of officers for the Conservation Commission. It was incorrectly stated that the term of office was through January 2004, it should be stated that the term of office was to be through January of 2005. Joe Gitterman seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions

Kelly Boling updated members on the Taylor/ 38 New Preston Hill Road easement, Mr. Boling wanted it known for the record that he was working with the land owner in a business capacity, Kelly reported that there will be (2) fields and land under conservation easement which will contain approximately (6) acres of conserved land. Linda Frank questioned Kelly as to whether the land under conservation easement could be used for calculations in the future by the land owners. Mr. Boling replied that the conserved land could be counted for density calculations but could not be used when figuring lot coverage.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties

Elaine Luckey and Linda Frank walked the town owned parcels at 46 Wykeham Road and 38 Slaughterhouse Road. The parcel on Wykeham doesn't have clear boundaries. The parcel on Slaughterhouse has a stonewall boundary which leads Linda to believe it may be a burial spot. Ms. Frank will contact Bruce Reinhold at the Historical Society and check it out. Linda has monitoring forms and would like members to do a site visit to the various parcels in April/May. These parcels should be monitored once a year. Joe Gitterman felt that this was setting an unhealthy precedent; it should not be the responsibility of the volunteers to monitor the parcels. Susan Payne didn't feel this was a worry for members. Elaine Luckey felt that with the limited number of parcels members should start the monitoring process. Kelly Boling suggested getting an estimate on monitoring costs to submit to the selectman's office. Susan Payne added that somebody needs to learn about these parcels. Elaine Luckey stated that the parcels at 209/217 BeeBrook Road will be given to the selectmen's office for investigation. Members will pick parcels at the end of tonight's meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space: Susan Payne reports that the Open Space Committee met on March 17th. Members thus far are: Betsy Corrigan, Patti Doran, Diane Dupuis, Rod Funston, Phil Gorrivan, Elaine Luckey, Phil Markert, Susan Payne, Dimitri Rimsky, Chick Treadway, Dan Sherr, Colleen & Jeff Weston, Bob & Diane Williams, Darcy Wright and Jack Field as an advisor. They will be meeting/coordinating with the Housing Committee. Kelly Boling asked if the Open Space Committee will be implementing the Open Space Plan. Ms. Payne stated that the first step of the committee is communication and input from the public.

Kelly Boling spoke with Atty. Zizka about PA490 for Open Space. Atty. Zizka told Kelly that the commission couldn't stipulate as a condition to PA490 Open Space that the land be permanently preserved. Atty. Zizka did state that the town could pass an ordinance authorizing the Planning Commission to designate open space taxed at a reduced rate designed for permanently eased land. At present the tax assessor doesn't give tax relief for conserved/eased land. Much discussion ensued about tax abatement for open space. Susan Payne will ask for feed back at the next Commission Chairman's meeting. Susan also asked Kelly to get Atty. Zizka's comments in writing.

Canoe Brook: no activity

School Connection (SVHS) and Gunnery/Envirnmental Club):Linda Frank will follow up with the Gunnery about their interest in monitoring the Wykeham Road town parcel.

Cell Tower Update: Phil Markert is going to contact Andrew Roraback and the Council of Governments about approaching the Siting Council from the direction that there is gross mismanagement within the cell tower companies.

Land Use Data Management: Kelly reported that this committee did meet but he was unable to attend due to illness and will schedule another meeting.

Road Discontinuation: Mr. Boling reports that they are researching sections of BeeBrook Road, Bantam River Road to Mt. Tom and West Mt. Road to be added to discontinued road status.

Flora & Fauna: Betsy Corrigan and Natalie Dyer will be meeting with Roger Cannavaro, Town Road Forman about road side cutting.

Betsy is disappointed that the Washington Environmental Council is only doing their regular road side clean up and the Garden Club is not participating in the Earth Day Event on May 2nd. Betsy will look to next year for planning an invasive awareness program.

Greenway: Susan Payne reports that Greenway met on Monday April 5th. Work continues on their trail guide. They will do a clean up on Earth Day and will be working in the Washington Primary School yard.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet Committee: Candace Korzenko is formatting the document; a draft should be ready for the next meeting. Members who are interested in the pamphlet should contact Ms. Korzenko and she will email it to you.

Scenic Road: Joe Gitterman reports that the How-To packet is in the works; it will be reviewed by the Scenic Road subcommittee, Conservation Commission and reviewed by an attorney before being distributed. Mr. Gitterman reports that applicants are eager for the packet.

Town Crew workers have been harassed by property owners along scenic roads, there seems to be a lack of knowledge about town right-of-ways and property lines. It would be beneficial to educate property owners. Joe suggested doing this through the First Selectman's office. Susan Payne thanked Joe for all of

the hard work his committee has done and continues to do; this has been a bigger more time consuming project than anticipated.

Water Resources: No new activity. Phil Markert mentioned modernizing the regulations to protect water resources, Kelly suggested Phil speak with Bill Fairbairn about this subject.

Other Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

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

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary