

May 2, 2007

Present: Chairperson Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Phillip Markert

Alternate: Diane Dupuis

Susan Payne, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

No alternates were seated.

Motion: Kelly Boling made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2007 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission as submitted, Susan Payne seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Members discussed inland wetlands regulations and the enforcement of them.

Referrals

Young Elliot's Farm LLC, 110 Calhoun Street, 2-lot subdivision: This subdivision application was continued at last night's Planning Commission meeting. Kelly Boling mentioned that David Miles Esq., Town Attorney, submitted a letter expressing concerns with the Conservation Easement.

Abdella, 44 Scofield Road, 3-lot subdivision: Susan Payne went on the site walk of this property. The Conservation Commission submitted a letter to the Planning Commission and Inland Wetland Commission dated April 26, 2007. Members looked over the proposed set aside areas on the map and went on to discuss upland review area and overall regulation control.

Brown/Carroll, 41 Buffum Road, 2-lot subdivision: This application was approved at last night's Planning Commission meeting.

Old Moore Property/Washington Partners LLC, 108 New Milford Trpk.: This property was at the Planning Commission meeting for preliminary discussion last night. Ms. Payne stated that this 30+ acre parcel has been discussed at the Open Space Committee and has the potential for both open space preservation and housing development.

Diane Dupuis arrived at 5:30pm and was seated as an alternate.

Discussion went back to the Conservation Commission's opposition to wetlands being included in subdivision set asides, members felt that some discussion should take place between commission members or chairs so everyone can come together on this topic.

Subcommittee Reports

Cell Tower Update: Diane Dupuis stated that they are waiting on the Board of Selectmen to decide on what action they will take. Members discussed several topics associated with the cell tower issue such as RF ratings and existing coverage. Kelly Boling asked if it would be helpful to have letters from people who live in town and have cell tower service. Ms. Dupuis felt that having these documents on file was good for the record. Susan Payne will check with the Selectmen's office about the best way for letters to be submitted.

Susan Payne stated that Dan Sherr is regrouping on the tax abatement topic, he has reviewed the new

legislation Senate Bill No. 546/PA-06-128.

Land Use Data Management: Kelly Boling informed members that there is WiFi in the Town Hall but it is password protected.

Open Space Committee: The Open Space committee is looking at the Route 202 corridor. Susan Payne noted that Danielle Baechle has gathered two binders of information about the history of Marbledale. Kelly Boling felt that looking into a Village District for the Marbledale area would be easier to implement than a Historical District. Susan Payne will put this on the agenda for June.

Scenic Road: Diane Dupuis asked about the designation of Route 202 as a State Scenic Road. Diane felt that it would be a plus to have homes listed with the National Registry of Historic Places; there are several "Whittlesey Houses" in the area.

Greenway: Susan Payne stated that they will meet next Monday May 7th @ 4:00pm at New Preston Falls. Ms. Payne hopes that Ray Underwood with Village Improvement will meet them; members are looking to clean up invasives and remove dead trees. A River Front Loop Committee has been established, to work on the "Old Town Garage Site" and did a walk about. Greenway members were a bit concerned about the elaborate plan for the wide walking path and are more concerned about getting the area cleaned up, graded and seeded to meadow. Kelly Boling commented that plans need to be well thought through, this area is an area in the town center and needs a good long term plan.

Rural Roadscape Zone Regulations: Kelly Boling informed members that this proposal is dead; the Zoning Commission doesn't want to proceed with it.

Phil Markert asked if the town's regulations are doing what we want, do they address our concerns?

Members went on to discuss communication between land use commissions. The subject of the Commission Chairs meeting came up as a way to tackle issues together. Also looking at the Plan of Conservation and Development to see what is working and what has been implemented.

Kelly Boling inquired about the "plan" to preserve and enhance the Route 202 corridor including scenic, parking, trees, pedestrian traffic, Greenways, conservation etc. Kelly will resend members his draft of the Route 202 Corridor Enhancement.

Diane Dupuis spoke about the conservation of buffer zones around wetlands, such as not planting and mowing grass to the edges of ponds which may contain threatened species; etc. She would like to draft a document addressing this concern.

Susan Payne reminded members of ongoing meeting about the school issue. Ms. Payne went on to talk about the "Mundey" site for a proposed consolidated school and the environmental impacts. Members had a brief discussion but felt that they should defer to Roxbury as it's in their town.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is June 6, 2007 @ 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary