

# May 22, 2002

**Present: Susan Payne, Joe Gitterman**  
**Alternates: Linda Frank, Linda Potter**

**Guests: Roger Cannavaro, Rebecca Bent, Walter Andrew**

The Chairman, Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Susan Payne seated alternates Linda Frank and Linda Potter.

**Approval of the minutes of the May 1st 2002 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission; Joe Gitterman made the motion to approve the May 1st minutes, seconded by Linda Frank, passed unanimously.**

**Referrals from other commissions: none**

Susan Payne discussed with the commission two items from the Inland Wetland minutes. The first one being an application for a dock on Lake Waramaug, she questioned jurisdiction and who's in charge with these issues. Secondly an application for a resident to pump water out of a brook to be used in an irrigation system. In regards to the irrigation system, Susan felt this is a major precedent to set and with the concern for water conservation becoming greater, could have an impact on the environment. She feels this is a conservation issue.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Scenic Vistas/Roads:** Joe Gitterman invited his subcommittee to this conservation meeting. Roger Cannavaro, Rebecca Bent and Walter Andrew were present. Rebecca Bent gave an overview of the Scenic Road Ordinance which included but is not limited to limits on widening and paving of roads, removal of stone walls and mature trees. The designation of scenic roads can be found in the State Statutes Section 7-149a. There are 40 towns in the state of Connecticut that have scenic road ordinances, many of them our neighbors. There are two ways to approach this ordinance. One being to adopt a scenic road ordinance naming specific roads with specific conditions. The second one would be delegating the power to the Planning Commission to adopt standards for scenic roads. The road may only be designated "scenic" if the majority of road frontage owners approve and may be rescinded in the same way. Roger Cannavaro questioned the purpose/goal of enacting a scenic road ordinance. Joe and Susan both agreed that the goal is to protect the "rural character" of the town. Roger feels that the reason for development is supply and demand, more people moving into town, traffic/speeding problems are increasing. With the "progress" that affects the town it becomes more and more complicated and he feels there comes a point when the town becomes "over regulated". He would not like to see more restrictions from a maintenance standpoint; "handcuffing" the town maintenance crews and selectmen. Many times upgrading roads is to help with maintenance/traffic issues. Roger also feels the town is straight forward and doesn't do things behind residents backs. Joe stated that if people with self interest came to power it could change the "rural character" and atmosphere of the town. Linda Frank inquired about getting information from towns that have a "scenic road ordinance". Walter Andrew stated that every town has different ways and guidelines. Walter felt that it was important to talk to the Planning Commission to see if they would be willing to take on this project. He went down this road several years ago and hit a stone wall with the Planning Commission. Joe Gitterman stated that this subcommittee will meet every Tuesday evening in June from 6:00 - 7:30pm. He will have an agenda for the subcommittee but this will not include designating roads for the "scenic road ordinance". Pam will send a reminder note to members with dates and time and also

include Chapter 4 pages 40&41 on "protect scenic roads" from the workbook for the 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development.

**Flora:** Betsy has met with her group. Linda Potter gave comment on this meeting. Dirk Sabin would like to see a "Town Arboretum" and Betsy would like to see a booklet made available educating people and giving practical advise on invasive species. Susan Payne reported that the bill sponsored by Senator Roraback pertaining to "invasive species" passed through the Senate but was tabled in the House of Representatives.

**Water resources:** no report, Susan will pass information along to this group about the possibility of a group forming in Bantam concerning water issues.

**Greenway Report:** All members received copies of the minutes from the May 6th meeting of the Greenway Committee. Linda Potter was present at that meeting. Susan Payne has changed the monthly meeting day to the first Tuesday of each month, the next meeting being June 4th at 4:30pm in the Land Use Room.

**Open Space Report:** The open space inventory subcommittee is done with it's work for now. Patti Doran has completed a narrative to go with the map of suggested plan for open space. Pam will include a copy of this narrative in the next mailing for all Conservation members.

**Planning Commission meeting 5/20:** Susan Payne attended the special Planning Commission meeting held on May 20th. Susan felt that there was a resistance to talking to representatives involved with The Natural Resource Inventory Report, the Open Space Inventory Subcommittee and Greenway. No input from these groups was sought for Chapter 4 of the workbook which deals with Conservation Strategies. Susan felt that the opinions stated were Glen Chalder's and not the townspeople. Joe suggested that perhaps the process did not include what is already established. Susan Payne will speak with George Bender, Chairman of the Planning Commission and get an explanation of the process. Susan and members of the Conservation Commission were hoping for the opportunity to speak with Mr. Chalder.

**Canoe Brook Project:** Joe Gitterman gave

information concerning the stone work at the Carter residence on Walker Brook Road to Linda Frank.

**Samson Driveway Project:** Joe Gitterman states that the pillars have been removed and there are bulldozers working. Joe will keep us up to date on developments. The commission will work on a list for suggested replanting.

**Housing Report:** no report

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

**Next scheduled meeting of Washington Conservation Commission id June 5,2002 at 7:00pm.**

Submitted subject to approval,  
Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary