

May 3, 2006

Present: Susan Payne Chairperson, Kelly Boling, Linda Frank, Phillip Markert

Guests: First Selectman Dick Sears, Planning Chair Addie Roberts

Chairperson Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

No alternates were present to be seated.

Motion: Phil Markert made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2006 meeting of the Conservation Commission with the following amendments: on page one, under Tree Cutting on Fenn Hill, line nine should read *Addie Roberts went on to explain that the Planning Commission attempts to keep a rural look by having open space set asides on the roadside*, in line thirteen replace area with *zone*. Kelly Boling seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals or new projects: none

Collaboration with Planning on making recommendations re: activities within the road right-of-way by Town and/or property owner: Members began this discussion with thoughts of education/information through the realtors and went on to the idea of more aggressive regulations and/or higher fines. Mr. Sears stated that the difficulty of regulating the roadsides is that there are no consistencies in the boundaries. Kelly Boling suggested that an effective way could be through zoning regulations and distributed a draft of: Possible Rural Roadside Zone Regulations. Kelly feels that the town's rural character is its roads; he will continue his work on the draft regulations. Conservation could work with the Planning Commission to develop regulations and then approach the Zoning Commission. Mr. Boling also distributed a copy of the Town of Harwinton's "Ordinance concerning the preservation of highway boundary stone walls". Members went on to discuss how to get information to "new" residents/landowners. Ms. Payne felt that you cannot expect the realtors or attorneys to distribute information to their clients; the Town will have to send out information. The commission will try to come up with the simplest way to accomplish this.

First Selectman Sears was present to offer information about a grant application "The Agriculture Viability Grant Program" which is meant to help promote farming. Towns can also utilize this grant for up to \$50,000. Mr. Sears has notified Carlos Canal who is working with Steep Rock on farmland preservation.

Addie Roberts, Planning Commission chair was present to share a letter from Patrick H. Hare, Cornwall P&Z member about a seminar to be held on June 25th about land preservation.

Subcommittee Reports: there were only reports for the following two subcommittees.

Greenway: Susan Payne showed members the extension made to the Greenway to include Macricostas Land Preserve. They are reworking the existing map.

Flora & Fauna: Susan Payne distributed information on the invasive plant garlic mustard.

Reports on NW Conservation District's Lower Impact Development Workshop: Linda Frank went to this workshop which focused on control of runoff, good development practices and was geared toward people who develop properties. Linda gave Susan the information for her Best Development Practices file. There was continued discussion on developments impact on wetlands, cutting of trees and the effect

on natural drainage.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is June 7, 2006 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary