

May 4, 2005

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

Alternates: Diane Dupuis, Daniel Sherr

Guests: Virginia Reynolds, First Selectman Richard Sears

Members are asked to email (conservation@washingtonct.org) or call Pam at (868-0423) if you can not attend a meeting.

Susan Payne, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Alternates Diane Dupuis and Daniel Sherr were seated.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the April, 6 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Kelly Boling made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6th meeting with the following additions; page 3, under Other Business, paragraph 2, should read: Ms. Payne attended a meeting with Green Print which is working with HVA to develop maps showing ideas for preservation of resources in the north west corner that serves the Highland Region. Susan referred them to all our resources. Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Info on Organic Tick Control: Virginia Reynolds addressed members of the commission; she began by relating her personal experiences with lime disease. Several members of her immediate family are chronically ill with the disease. Ms. Reynolds has found a company "Natural Lawn of America" which sprays four times a year with a derivative of chrysanthemum, which is safe for the environment, birds, water etc. Their guarantee is that they will respray for free if you find a tic after they have sprayed. The company will answer any technical questions; Ms. Reynolds left information with members. Susan Payne will forward the information to Betsy Corrigan and the Garden Club. Kelly Boling added that the Litchfield County Times might be interested in doing an article.

Review of Natural Resource Inventory Report: Members started working through the list of recommendations located on page 33 of the Natural Resource Inventory Report. Work being done and discussed included the following: The Conservation Commission has forwarded information to the Zoning Commission on "ridgeline regulations" which will be discussed at their May meeting. The Greenway Committee will be looking at increased walking possibilities. With the Scenic Road Ordinance on the books designating scenic roads is on going. Members had discussion on "ambient lighting" and requirements for road/street lighting and the possibility of decommissioning some street lighting. Kelly Boling will draft a letter addressing the lighting issue. Phil Markert mentioned that The Washington Environmental Council will be having two guest speakers in June a herpetologist is coming and may discuss the Route 109 project and in October the topic will be ambient lighting. Susan Payne informed committee members that Bill Fairbairn and Steve Solley are working on restoring the farm house on Christian Street which is located on the Macricostas Preserve. Members also discussed Lake Waramaug preservation, getting the various entities to work together and creation of a three town committee (Washington, Warren & Kent). Lake preservation should include the ridgelines around the lake too. There was discussion on tree clearing and logging, which can affect aquifers. Kelly Boling mentioned transferring development rights as a tool to create preservation. Members discussed the Planning Commission's "Depot Study"; the discussion included encouraging open space preservation in other parts of town as well as not over building the village centers and the increased traffic volume. Dick Sears noted that zoning regulations are the best tool but the Conservation Commission should continue "raising the

flag" on issues. There was also discussion on getting away from dimensional regulations and looking at drafting standards. Susan Payne suggested that a recommendation be made to the Planning Commission requiring sub-division applicants who are required to have set-asides, being responsible for permanently marking easements given to the Town.

Management and Monitoring of Town properties: no report

Subcommittee Reports:

Open Space Committee: Dan Sherr noted that \$150,000 is in the Town Budget as seed money for Open Space. Dan has also been asked to be in on the Depot Study.

Ridgeline Protection: no report

Archaeological Resources Protection: no report

Land Use Data Management: Kelly Boling and George Blake are working on a disc.

Greenway: Susan Payne reported that the Trail Guide is going to print.

Scenic Road: no report

Canoe Brook: An Inland Wetland permit has been made for work along Canoe Brook.

School Connection: no report

Cell Tower Update: Rabbit Hill Road residents have been approached by AT&T, everyone has said no.

Flora & Fauna: no report

Water Resources: no new activity.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is June 1st at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary