

May 5, 2004

Present: Susan Payne Chairperson, Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman

Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis, Elaine Luckey

Guests: First Selectman Dick Sears

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

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

Diane Dupuis and Elaine Luckey were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the April 7, 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Elaine Luckey made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7th meeting with the following corrections: on page (1) under Referrals from other Commissions, paragraph (1), sentence (1) should read Kelly Boling updatedKelly reported that there will be (2) fields under conservation easement, sentence (3) should read Mr. Boling replied that the conserved land could not be counted for density calculations but could be used when figuring lot coverage; on page (2) under Subcommittee Reports, Open Space, paragraph (2), sentence (2) should read Atty. Zizka did state that the town could pass an ordinance authorizing the Planning Commission to designate eased land as open space making it eligible for taxation at a reduced rate. Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Payne asked Kelly Boling if he had received Atty. Zizka's comments in writing about PA490 Open Space. Kelly has made the request of Atty. Zizka. Elaine Luckey asked about having Atty. Zizka create a template of an ordinance for the PA490 Open Space, members agreed but will wait for Atty. Zizka's comments in writing first.

Referrals from other Commissions:

Members reviewed a map for the Beck property at 129 Calhoun Street, for a (2) lot subdivision. The proposed conservation easement was noted on the map. Members discussed the proposed conservation easement as well as possible fee-in-lieu of. Pam Osborne, Secretary will check to see if the Planning Commission is doing a site visit so Conservation Commission members could join in.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties:

Linda Frank reported that all town owned properties have been assigned to Conservation members. Members are asked to complete a site visit by the June 2nd meeting. First Selectman Dick Sears mentioned that at the May Town Meeting the selectmen will propose to discontinue the old road located at 209 Bee Brook Road. Mr. Sears was asked to check into the fallen tree on the 46 Wykeham Road property. Susan Payne asked about the CL&P substation on Bee Brook Road across from My Chef. It appears that the CL&P has removed their substation from this area. Who will take ownership of this property; remove debris and old fencing from the area? Mr. Sears will check into this also.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space: Members received minutes from the April 21st meeting. Ms. Payne noted that the committee came up with (6) questions to ask townspeople about open space by their next meeting, Susan is hoping this information will help shape discussions with the public. First Selectman Sears went on to comment that open space and housing were just two of the values that the town wants, coming from the

Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Other big ticket items include schools and municipal, during public conversations we'll have to wait and see how it all shakes out. Betsy Corrigan has resigned from this committee.

Canoe Brook: no activity

School Connection: Towards fall Linda Frank will contact the Gunnery about monitoring the Wykeham Road parcel. Diane Dupuis gave Linda a couple of names at the Shepaug School.

Cell Tower: no activity

Land Use Data Management: no activity

Road Discontinuation: Kelly Boling reports they will meet tomorrow (May 6th) to go over the draft motion for the May 20th Town Meeting. They are looking to discontinue sections of Bee Brook Road, Bantam River Road and West Mt. Road.

Flora & Fauna: no report

Greenway: Susan Payne reports this committee did Earth Day cleanup on May 2nd, they also met on May 3rd. They have changed their meeting time to 4:00pm. Minutes for the Greenway are incorporated into the Conservation Committee meeting minutes.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet: A draft of this pamphlet has gone to the Board of Selectmen for review. Susan will have Candy Korzenko email the draft to all members.

Scenic Road: Joe Gitterman distributed a draft of the How-To-Packet to members. He asked members to review it and give him comments by May 10th. At one point Joe had asked for monies for maps, he now feels this is an unnecessary expense and won't be needed.

Water Resources: no report

Other Business

Susan Payne asked Pam Osborne to report on the GIS workshop she attended with Janet Hill. Both Pam and Janet were very disappointed with the workshop. The workshop was not geared to beginners as advertised. The instructor worked at a rapid pace and had multiple server problems. Pam stated that she felt overwhelmed and totally lost at times. It was a very disappointing experience. Susan asked about the possibility of having George Blake come and do a one-on-one with Pam & Janet. Kelly Boling will investigate through Barbara Johnson, Tax Assessor and George Blake to see about updating our Arc View data, there is monies in the 03-04 budget for updating the mapping.

Mr. Sears asked members for feed back on the recent Town Newsletter. Several members thought that the Church section should be consolidated or deleted. It was also suggested that there be a calendar of events listed. Dick would like to see the newsletter issued at least (3) times a year, to report civic and public life going on.

With great regret Susan Payne as Chairperson of the Conservation Commission accepted the resignation of Elaine Luckey as an alternate member of the committee. Elaine will not be at the June meeting and will be moving out of town. Members agreed that Elaine would be an honorary member.

Susan Payne will be out of town for the June meeting by Kelly Boling will preside as Vice-Chairman.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is June 2, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary