

May 7, 2003

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

Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis

Guests: Elaine Luckey, First Selectman

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

Linda Frank and Diane Dupuis were seated as alternates.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the April 16, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Phillip Markert made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16th meeting. Kelly Boling seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: none

Scenic Road Ordinance: Members have received the latest draft of the scenic road ordinance and are asked to get their comments and thoughts to Joe Gitterman by May 19th.

Land Acquisition Fund: Susan Payne reports that there is on going discussion on setting up a "Land Acquisition Fund". Ms. Payne feels the need for town council help and Elaine Luckey suggested that this topic be brought up at the Commission Chairs next meeting. Ms. Luckey will schedule the next chairs meeting for early June and will invite David Miles, Esq. There was continued discussion about establishing a fund and spending authorization. Members also discussed the issue of floating bonds.

Land Management Discussions: Members had no new information or thoughts to add to Kelly's outline. Susan Payne spoke with John Allen of the Building and Properties Committee about their interest in town owned properties without buildings. Mr. Allen informed Ms. Payne that they are targeting building maintenance and left the town owned properties in the care of the Conservation Commission. Linda Frank has been in touch with the school about curriculum and suggested asking the Garden Club and/or Washington Environmental Council for assistance with this monitoring and maintenance project. Susan has a list and maps of "Town Owned Properties" she will put together a tour route. Pam Osborne will check into getting the Senior Bus to use at the May 21st meeting to tour these properties.

Subcommittee Reports:

Canoe Brook: Linda Frank is in the process of contacting Dirk Sabin. Elaine Luckey informed commission members that the Steep Grant is still in the works.

Cell Tower: Phil Markert stated his thoughts about cell towers and the Siting Council. Mr. Markert feels that this has little to do with the Town because Cell Tower Communication is a national priority. He feels that the cell tower carriers are at fault and operating poorly. Ideally he would like to have the Siting Council talk with the FCC to put a moratorium on cell towers until carriers/companies get their acts together consolidate and share technologies. Phil will poke away at this. Ms. Luckey suggested speaking with local legislators.

Data Management: none

Flora/Fauna: Susan attended the meeting on April 28th with guest speaker Professor Pyle. Ms. Payne also shared information about a training program on May 17th at the Warren Congregational Church entitled "Planning for Nature: Preserving Ecological Integrity."

Greenway: Susan Payne submitted minutes from the May 6th meeting. Maintenance and monitoring are ongoing. The Boy Scout Troop will be helping in the Bee Brook area with the maintenance.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet Subcommittee: This subcommittee is meeting monthly.

Water Resource:

Kirby Brook evaluation: Phil Markert had results from a sampling that Randy Bernard did on April 21st on Kirby Brook. The sample showed an increase in nitrates below the International College of Hospitality, but Randy felt these levels were not a major concern. Mr. Bernard also said it was too early/cold to test for bacteria.

Candidates for alternate on Conservation Commission: Continuing to look for candidates.

Other Business: Ms. Payne reports that at the May 6th Planning meeting it was decided that a small group of representatives from Planning and Planimetrics would meet on Friday to reorganize and edit the draft of the 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development. Kelly Boling commented that it would be great to get the full support of all commissions behind the new Plan of Conservation and Development.

Ms. Payne asked members if it would be OK to cancel the June 18th meeting, all members agreed. Pam Osborne will post notice.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is May 21st at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary