

# June 19, 2002

**Present:** Susan Payne, Chairman, Ruth Alex, Joe Gitterman

**Guests:** Elaine Luckey, First Selectman

The Chairman, Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

No Alternates were seated.

**Approval of the minutes from the May 22, 2002 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission; Ruth Alex made a motion to approve the minutes with the following change in paragraph one, line five exchange the word precedent for the word president, seconded by Joe Gitterman, passed unanimously.**

**Referrals from other commission:** none

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Scenic Vistas/Roads:** Joe Gitterman reported on his subcommittee. Joe started by thanking Elaine Luckey for all the input and resources she has contributed to this subcommittee. Joe feels she has done an incredible job relaying a lot of useful information to them. This subcommittee's last meeting will be next week, June 25th from 6:00 - 7:30pm. They will be having a guest speaker, a selectman from Simsbury who assisted that town in enacting a "Scenic Road Ordinance". At this time the subcommittee is word-smithing a draft of a "Scenic Road Ordinance". Joe expects to have a first draft done by the end of July and Pam Osborne, as secretary will be putting the draft into disc form to be emailed to interested parties. Joe and his committee are concerned with the Planning Commission's reaction to the "Scenic Road Ordinance". By State Statute the town may only delegate the power to designate scenic roads to the planning commission or a combined planning and zoning commission. Susan Payne will talk with George Bender. Joe stated that with many area towns having a "Scenic Road Ordinance" already in place, it would be in keeping with the towns plan to protect rural character to have a "Scenic Road Ordinance". Chairman, Susan Payne once again commended Joe and his subcommittee for all their work.

**Flora:** no report

**Water Resources:** no report

**Greenway:** Conservation members received copies of minutes from the June 4th meeting of Greenway. Greenway is working on putting their map on the Town of Washington web site.

**Follow up with Planning Commission:** Susan Payne referenced a three page memo she submitted to George Bender, Chairman of the Planning Commission and Glenn Chalder, of Planimetrics, commenting on Section #4 of the workbook for the Plan of Conservation and Development. Pam will copy this memo and distribute it to conservation members. It was decided to continue using the terminology that is used in the Natural Resource Report. Also it was agreed upon to acknowledge the Natural Resource Report, Open Space Steering Committee Report and Housing in the Plan of Conservation and Development. At the meeting they also discussed forming a new "Washington Land Trust", which both Elaine Luckey and Susan Payne felt should be under town jurisdiction and were opposed to forming another private land trust. The review of Section #4 of the workbook was continued to the July 16th special meeting of the Planning Commission.

**Canoe Brook project Update:** none

**Samson Driveway Project Update:** Joe Gitterman reports that the driveway has been moved and the area reseeded. Ruth Alex asked about the removal of debris from the land. Joe will check on this and report back to the commission.

**Driveway Ordinance:** All members received a copy of the most recent driveway ordinance. Members felt that this ordinance/application seemed sufficient.

**Housing:** no report

**Other Business:**

Susan shared an article on the controversial removal of Norway Spruce trees in New Preston. The owners eventually removed two of the five trees.

Members discussed how area towns write and receive grants.

Susan Payne attended a committee chairman's meeting on Thursday June 13th at Selectman Nick Solley's home.

Pam will copy and distribute Section V of the Open Space Plan (Interim Report - March 2002).

The commission received the copy of "Natural Resource-Based Planning for Watersheds-A Practical Starter Kit for Watershed Projects" that had been requested from the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System.

Members agreed to cancel the July 3rd meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

**Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is July 17th 2002 at 7:00pm.**

Submitted subject to approval,  
Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary