

June 2, 2004

Present: Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman, Phillip Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank (arrived at 5:30pm)

Guests: Dick Sears First Selectman, Press

Kelly Boling, Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

No Alternates were seated.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the May 5, 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Joe Gitterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5th meeting with the following correction; on page (2) the last line should read Susan Payne will be out of town for the June meeting, Kelly Boling will preside as Vice-Chairman. Phil Markert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions: Beck/129 Calhoun Street - 2 lot subdivision. Susan Payne spoke with Janet Hill, Planning Commission secretary informing her that Conservation Commission members would like to see a fee-in-lieu of open space for this parcel.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties: No new activity

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space: no report

Canoe Brook: no new activity

School Connection (SVHS) and Gunnery/Environmental Club: no activity

Cell Tower Update: no new activity. First Selectmen Dick Sears asked where the town stands on the cell tower issue. He has been approached by a resident who wants more cell coverage. Phil Markert explained that in his opinion the cell companies were pushing for coverage as a national priority which is false. He feels the siting council's job is to look out for the best interests of the towns and until the cell companies come up with a long range strategic plan and agree to share towers things should be kept on hold.

Land Use Data Management: Kelly Boling has contacted George Blake to do an update on the Arc View program.

Road Discontinuation: Kelly Boling informed members that the ball was dropped on the (3) roads up for discontinuation. The proposal didn't go before the Planning Commission, so it was removed from the Town Meeting agenda. Mr. Sears told members that the selectman were going to forward the proposal for Bee Brook Road and West Mountain Road discontinuation to the Planning Commission. The section of Bantam River Road will not go ahead at this time there has been opposition from some residents. The proposal for discontinuation will be on the October Town Meeting agenda if not before.

Flora & Fauna: no report

Greenway: no report

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet: All members received copies of the final draft of this document and

were asked to contact Candace Korzenko by June 11th with errors and omissions.

Scenic Road: Joe Gitterman has made final corrections on the How-To-Packet and will forward it to Janet Hill for distribution with the Scenic Road Ordinance.

MOTION: to accept the final draft of the How-To-Packet of steps to take to get your road designated as a scenic road was made by Kelly Boling, seconded by Phil Market and passed unanimously.

Mr. Gitterman reported that an application for Shinar Mountain Road has been submitted. Mr. Sears added that the Nettleton Hollow Road Association has been in contact with the selectmen about upcoming road work on Nettleton Hollow because they are interested in scenic road designation.

Water Resources: Phil Markert asked to remove Rumsey Hall & Rivers monitoring from the Agenda. This area has been tested and has shown no increase as a result of the new septic system installed by Rumsey Hall School.

Other Business

Joe Gitterman was upset by the clear cutting/destruction of trees at 53 Lower Church Hill Road. Some of the trees measured 2' in diameter and were 2'-3' from the edge of the road. Joe felt that the landowner should have the town's permission before doing such removal. Joe also felt that guardrails will be needed for safety reasons now that the trees are gone. Mr. Sears addressed this issue by stating that the trees did not act as guardrails and according to the survey they saw the trees were on the owner's property. Mr. Sears, Roger Cannavaro Town Road Forman and Bill Bader Tree Warden have visited the site and concluded that the town has no interest in the site; the removal doesn't affect the function of the road. In explaining the town's position Mr. Sears stated that the landowner in actuality owns to the center of the town road, the town maintains a right-of-way which runs 25' from the center of the road to both sides. Mr. Gitterman feels that the activity infringes on the town's right-of-way. Mr. Sears agrees that the activity is very close to the road. Phil Markert interjected that this raises issues about the cutting of trees and how the town determines it has no interest, should there be restrictions, a way to save a really nice tree? Mr. Gitterman felt there is a danger to the town's rural character if this kind of activity were to become common place. Linda Frank added that with the removal of these trees perhaps the road would get more sunlight and be less apt to freeze in the winter. It was suggested and Mr. Sears has thought about putting an article together for the town newsletter about this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is July 7, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary