

June 3, 2009

5:00 p.m., Land Use Mtg. Room

Members Present: Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Phillip Markert, Linda Frank, Ric Sonder, Alt.

Absent: Diane Dupuis, Betsy Corrigan, Alt., Phil Dutton, Alt., Dirk Sabin, Advisor

Staff Present: Shelley White

Guests: Colleen Kissane, Mike Calbrese, Bruce Villwock, Rob Clapper, Robert Tomlinson, Mark Lyon, First Selectman

Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Seated: Susan Payne, Phil Markert, Linda Frank, Kelly Boling & Ric Sonder, Alt.

DOT – Route 202 Scenic Road Application:

Mr. Boling introduced Ms. Kissane, Transportation Assistant Planning Director, of the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation. Ms. Kissane, Mr. Villwock, Mr. Clapper and Mr. Calabrese were present to represent the Department of Transportation. Ms. Kissane explained the process of how a road becomes a designated scenic road. She submitted criteria for Designation of Scenic Highways and a list of Connecticut State Scenic Roads (on file in the Land Use Office). She stated that sections of the 4.1 miles that the Town of Washington submitted in the application met the criteria. She stated she and her fellow D.O.T. counterparts were in agreement that the section of road starting at the New Preston Falls and to Rabbit Hill met the criteria of a scenic road but, Joseph Marie, Commissioner, has to make the final decision. Mr. Boling stated the Conservation Commission is open to any suggestions the D.O.T. has for beginning and ending points of the scenic road designation. Ms. Kissane suggested including Route 45 through the village of New Preston and ending at Rabbit Hill. She stated a letter would need to be sent to the D.O.T. stating that the Conservation Commission would like to include this section of road with this application. She stated the D.O. T. has a concern of possible development at the 108 New Milford Turnpike Property. Ms. Payne stated the Town is in the process of buying the property contingent upon an environmental review. Mr. Lyon stated they are at the second step of this environmental review. Ms. Frank stated it would bring traffic through the center of New Preston, which would be good for business.

Motion: to draft a letter to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation requesting the nomination for Scenic Road be amended to include the intersection of Route 45 and Route 202 to the existing Scenic Road sign on Route 45 at Flirtation Avenue, by Mr. Boling, seconded by Ms. Frank, by 5-0 vote.

Consideration of the Minutes

The Minutes of the May 6, 2009 meeting were considered.

Corrections

Page 3: Under Best Development Practices Brochure:, 2nd sentence should read: Mr. Dutton stated he would start drafting a letter about stonewalls.

Motion: to accept the May 6, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Conservation Commission as amended, by Ms. Frank, seconded by, Mr. Sonder, by 5-0 vote.

Cell Tower Update

Ms. Payne stated she and Ms. Dupuis attended the Connecticut Siting Council's Evidentiary Hearing in New Britain, yesterday June 2nd. Ms. Payne stated the CSC website has everything documented on their website. The hearing was continued to possibly sometime in August. Ms. Payne stated that the office of

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal wrote a letter to CSC opposing both sites on the Tanner Farm.

Mr. Robert Tomlinson of the Town of Washington's Emergency Management stated he has come to the Conservation Commission to seek guidance. He stated, from an emergency perspective, cell phone service coverage is very important and the town needs to work with the telecommunication companies and the Connecticut Siting Council to find and locate these cell towers appropriately. Mr. Markert stated the Conservation Commission's Cell Tower Subcommittee had previously asked a telecommunication company to show their plans as to where they would locate cell towers in Washington and this company stated they had no interest in Washington except for the Route 202 corridor. Mr. Markert stated that when they talked to the telecommunications company about what it would take to cover the Town of Washington they did not show any interest in talking with the Cell Tower Committee. Mr. Tomlinson stated it was his understanding that the Connecticut Siting Council could help the towns by providing municipal plans. Mr. Tomlinson referred to Public Act No. 04-226 Section 3, which states that the CSC "shall provide technical assistance to the municipality in preparing a plan." Mr. Tomlinson stated the radio system that the Town of Washington uses works well but the need for the public to have cell service to contact emergency services, if necessary, is the main concern. The Conservation Commission agreed that they would discuss this issue and keep Mr. Tomlinson informed of their progress.

108 New Milford Turnpike Update

Ms. Payne informed the commission that Russ Dirienzo did an environmental review on the property and the results have been sent to Washington Partners LLC. She stated the Selectmen's Office is waiting to hear back from Washington Partners LLC and hopefully there will be more information for the next C.C. meeting.

Archaeological Resource Protection in Town Regulations

Ms. Payne stated the Planning Commission is reviewing the revisions and will get back to the Conservation Commission with their comments.

Referrals

Ms. Payne stated she has talked with Mike Ajello, ZEO, and he informed her there will be a public meeting on June 9 at 7pm at the Town Hall to discuss plans to rebuild a portion of East Shore Road.

Subcommittee Reports

Conservation Design Subdivisions:

Ms. Payne stated the people of the subcommittee would like to meet again. She stated she would have more information about the subcommittee at the next C.C. meeting.

Greenway Committee Activities:

Ms. Payne stated the Greenway Committee would be taking a sabbatical this summer and would meet September 8th, 2009.

Old Business

Conservation Easement Model:

Ms. Payne stated she talked with Attorney Miles and will have his comments to the Conservation Commission in time for the July 1, 2009 meeting.

Motion: to adjourn by Ms. Payne.

Ms. Payne adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm

SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL,

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley White

Land Use Clerk