

July 16, 2003

Present: Susan Payne, Chairperson, Joseph Gitterman, Phillip Markert

Alternates: Linda Frank

Guests: Elaine Luckey, First Selectman, Chris Charles, Planning Commission member

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Linda Frank was seated as an alternate.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the June 4, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4th meeting. Joe Gitterman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other Commissions:

Lloyd - this application has already been approved by the Inland Wetland Commission.

Monitoring of Town Properties:

Linda Frank has been in contact with Chick Treadway about monitoring. He has provided Linda with a format/outline for monitoring of the Town properties. Joe Gitterman commented that Steep Rock's monitoring program is very good but the problem is determining the boundary line for parcels when you're out in the field checking for the parcels. Susan Payne agreed and stated that this work will have to be done to the best of the commission's ability and it will be a challenge for the fall. For future parcels there needs to be requirements such as a survey when the town acquires land.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook: Elaine Luckey reported that they are continuing work on the S.T.E.A.P. grant.

School Connection: no new info

Cell Tower Update: Phil Markert reports that everything remains quiet. Susan Payne added that the Board of Selectmen in Warren has gone on record as opposing the Cell Tower application on Rabbit Hill Road in their town.

Data Management: no report

Discontinuing Roads: Kelly Boling has sent a letter to George Bender, Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Flora & Fauna: no report

Greenway: The last meeting was a site visit to New Preston Falls; members will be going back in the fall and would like to do some selective tidying up of the property. It was suggested that the New Preston Boys & Girls or the Boys Scouts might help. Greenway will not be meeting in August.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet: This team continues to meet once a month to get their work done.

Scenic Road Ordinance: Joe Gitterman had the July 16th / 10th draft of the Scenic Road Ordinance. Mr.

Gitterman stated that the changes made by council were to change wording so the document was in line with the state statues. Joe feels the next step would be to post the proposed ordinance on the town's website and to forward copies to Commission Chairmen, Janet Hill and the Board of Selectmen. The final step is to get the "proposed scenic road ordinance" to the agenda of the next Town Meeting. Joe asked members about having a public forum before the town meeting. Members felt that he should wait to see the feed back from the website and publicity then decide.

MOTION: Susan Payne made a motion to accept the Scenic Road Ordinance work, to have the document posted on the Town of Washington website, to publish notice in the Voices about the Scenic Road Ordinance and to request the Board of Selectmen put it on the agenda for the next Town Meeting. Phil Markert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Susan Payne offered to do the press release for the Voices and went on to commend the subcommittee for all their hard work. Joe Gitterman noted that members of the "Scenic Road Ordinance Subcommittee" were Rebecca Bent, Walter Andrew, Roger Cannavaro, Chick Treadway, Dimitri Rimsky, Bill Bader and himself. Mr. Markert asked what will become of this ordinance if it is passed at the Town Meeting. Joe answered that he hopes individuals will spearhead designation of scenic roads, there is plenty of interest.

Water Resources: no report Susan Payne asked Phil to look into testing the waters around Rumsey Hall School.

TPOCD: The Planning Commission held a special informational meeting for Commission Members on July 15th on the draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This was a power point presentation of the latest POCD by Planimetrics. Chris Charles explained how information/input was gathered for the plan. The Planning Commission, a diverse group of individuals, have been working methodically through the plan. They have been having "special" monthly meetings.

Susan Payne voiced her disappointment that the Planning and Conservation Commissions had not had a joint meeting during this ongoing process to share information. Conservation members and Mr. Charles went on to discuss the open space plan.

Other Business

Two newspaper articles were submitted as interest to members. Pam will include them with the mailing.

Susan Payne asked that the commission's membership to the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions be renewed. Pam will take care of this.

Meeting adjourned 6:35pm.

Next scheduled meeting of Conservation Commission is August 6th at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary