

August 2, 2006

Present: Susan Payne Chairperson, Linda Frank, Joe Gitterman, Phillip Markert

Alternates: Diane Dupuis, Dan Sherr

Guests: First Selectman Dick Sears

Seating of Alternates: Diane Dupuis was seated as an alternate.

Motion: Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2006 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission with the following amendment and addition, *under Alternates replace Dupuis for Dupree, under Referrals or new projects: add Ms. Payne reminded members to stop by the Land Use Office or check.* Diane Dupuis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Referrals or new projects: Janet Hill, Land Use Coordinator referred an application for Potter/253 Old Litchfield Road/ 2 lot subdivision to the Conservation Commission. The application is for a subdivision of 6.94 acres into two proposed lots of 4.05 with an existing house and 2.89 with a proposed single family house. After looking at the proposal it was the unanimous decision of the members that the Planning Commission should ask for a fee-in-lieu of open space.

Motion: at 5:30pm Phil Markert made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential municipal property transfer activity, Joe Gitterman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Motion: at 6:25pm Joe Gitterman made a motion to come out of executive session Linda Frank seconded the motion which passes unanimously.

Discuss the allocation of new money being collected per land use document: Susan Payne had a memo from Dan McGuinness of the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments regarding Open Space and housing Funds, Pam Osborne will mail copies to members.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space Committee: Dan Sherr stated that the Open Space Committee will not be meeting in August. They will be doing a walk-about in Marble Dale at their September 20th meeting. Mr. Sherr circulated copies of PA 06-97 An Act Concerning Subdivisions for Affordable Housing Developments and PA 06-128 An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Abate Taxes on Open Space Land and Authorizing Floating and Overlay Zones and Flexible Zoning Districts. Dan closed by noting that the Washington Environmental Council will celebrate their 35th anniversary this year.

Ridgeline Protection: Linda Frank and Phil Markert went to the July 24th Zoning Commission meeting to talk about ridgeline protection. Phil Markert used maps with overlays showing the acreage impacted, which showed about 10% of the town or approximately 2500 acres being impacted. Linda and Phil felt the Zoning Commission members were concerned with the effect on town, the effected area being too big and would rather start by putting restrictions in specific areas. When Phil and Linda were working with Ric Saunders he felt that the regulations should be applied to the whole town. Phil is going to look for president set in other towns. Ms. Frank circulated the "Horizonline Conservation District" for the town of Kent. Kent's regulation conserves identified "Horizon Belts". Linda went on to state that it's better if you focus on environmental aspects such as water and erosion. Linda and Phil will continue working on

proposed ridgeline regulations.

Archaeological Resources Protection: no report

Land Use Data Management: The Land Use Offices will be moved around beginning in October; at this time the arc view computer will be taken "out of the closet" and permanently set up in the new office space. This would be a better time to have training as the program will be out and easily accessible.

Greenway: The new signs, which include directions to Macricostas Land Preserve have arrived and will be installed shortly.

Management and Monitoring of Town properties: no activity

Scenic Roads: An application for scenic road was submitted at the August 1st meeting of the Planning Commission for Rabbit Hill Road.

Cell Tower Update: no activity

Flora & Fauna: no report

Water Resources Monitoring and Protection: no activity

In closing Susan Payne asked if any one had ideas for the Town Times which has a deadline of August 15th for submissions. Joe Gitterman thought perhaps Kelly Boling could write something about scenic roads and Susan Payne suggested information on invasive species.

Ms. Payne also reminded members of the special meetings set up by the Planning Commission dealing with the Depot Study on August 19th and 25th.

Motion: Dan Sherr made a motion to adjourn at 7:00pm; Joe Gitterman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary