

# August 3, 2005

**Present:** Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Philip Markert

**Alternates:** Linda Frank, Dan Sherr

Chairperson, Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Linda Frank and Dan Sherr were seated as alternates.

**MOTION: approval of the minutes of the July 6, 2005 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6th meeting, Susan Payne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Referrals or new projects: Myfield, Frisbie Farm Estates, The Gunnery School, Stacy Matthews, any other new proposals.**

Both Frisbie Farm Estates and the Stacey Matthews applications were denied with out prejudice by the Inland Wetlands Commission.

The Myfield project continues working its way through land use; members will keep an eye on it.

Members looked at The Gunnery School application before the Inland Wetlands Commission. They are applying for a driveway and science classroom. Their plan refers to three phases: one being the driveway and classroom, two being soccer fields and three being faculty housing. The Inland Wetlands Commission had previously approved the driveway which the permit expires for in December 2005. Susan Payne stated that she was concerned from a conservation standpoint about the wetlands crossing and runoff. Members discussed the high volume of traffic already on South Street because of the Shepaug Middle/High School. Kelly Boling shared his personal experience with having a soccer field next to his home and stated that the noise is deafening when activity is going on. Kelly suggested that schools and organizations in town get together and find a location that is good and share the space. Phil Markert and Linda Frank felt that school noise is OK. Susan Payne added that The Gunnery has stated that the fields will get minimal use but she is still concerned. Dan Sherr felt a problem with the fields would be the over fertilization and pesticides as well as runoff, the earth is cut down 20' deep to assure proper drainage and a level playing surface. Dan feels there could be a high level of contamination. Phil Markert added that the wants and needs of the school need to be addressed; having several schools use the same playing fields would save money. Phil also though having the school share long range plans would be beneficial and questioned if they are denied will they develop the land? Susan Payne stated the both Rumsey Hall School and Devereux-Glenholme School have shared their long range plans. Members looked over the grading, drainage and sediment control plan for the driveway project. There was some discussion about access off of Route 47. The Gunnery no longer owns the ponds on Route 47 and the area appears to be too steep for access. Susan Payne mentioned that The Gunnery owns a 20 acre parcel off of Frisbie Road, which would be a good classroom site and they already have an existing road to their water sheds off of South Street. Members agreed that the Inland Wetlands Commission might look at these as feasible and prudent alternatives. Dan Sherr will draft an email of the Conservation Commissions observations. The Gunnery's applications are before the Inland Wetlands Commission on August 10th and the Zoning Commission on August 22nd. Members are encouraged to attend if possible.

The Planning Commission has an application for Johnson on West Mountain Road for a subdivision. There will be three lots sizes 26, 6 and 5+ acres. This subdivision is for family so they will not have to give open space set-aside. Members looked over the plan and gave positive comment. The Planning

Commission public hearing is scheduled for September 6th.

**The Depot Study** The report should be coming in August.

**Review of Natural Resources Inventory Report's recommendations to select projects for implementation.** Not discussed.

**Management and Monitoring of Town Properties.** Pam Osborne, secretary forwarding information to Linda Frank about a Conservation Easement on the Davenport property on Dark Entry Road. Susan Payne circulated to members a draft Re: Town-Initiated Open Space Preservation. Members reviewed the draft and made minor changes. Ms. Payne will make the corrections and email to members and Pam for distribution.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Open Space Committee:** Dan Sherr stated that the meeting on August 17th at 5:00pm will be devoted to the tax relief ordinance. He invited all members to attend. Susan Payne questioned members about a proposal brought forward by the Farm Task Force regarding tax abatement for farming machinery and buildings. This would be in the form of an ordinance to enable CT State Statute 12/91b. Members supported the idea.

**Ridgeline Protection/meeting with Gary Fitzherbert:** Linda Frank will get in touch with Gary Fitzherbert to set up a meeting time.

**Archaeological Resources Protection:** no report

**Land Use Data Management/training of Town Land Use staff:** Kelly Boling will check on the status of the projector for the Arc View program.

**Greenway:** Susan Payne reported that the Trail Guide is at the printers and she has permission to place a plaque on the Washington Pharmacy for a high water mark from the 1955 flood.

**Scenic Road:** Dan Sherr has met with Joe Gitterman and received information on State Scenic Road Designation. Dan is looking to strategically incorporate with the Depot Study the designation of state roads leading into the Depot as scenic. Dan feels this will be a laboring process and his goal is springtime.

**Canoe Brook:** Pam Osborne, Secretary will check the status of the STEAP grant for this project.

**Cell Tower Update:** no report

**Flora & Fauna:** no report

**Water Resources Monitoring and Protection:** no report

### **Other Business:**

Phil Markert wanted to share with members that the Washington Environmental Council, communications committee is looking into putting together an annual State of the Environment report for the Town of Washington.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.**

**Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is September 7, 2005 at**

**5:00pm.**

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary