

September 1, 2004

Present: Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman

Alternates: Linda Frank, Diane Dupuis

Guests: Press

The Chairperson, Susan Payne called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Betsy Corrigan left word in the Land Use Office that she would not be attending tonight's meeting, she was going to the Bantam conference this evening at 7:00pm.

Linda Frank and Diane Dupuis were seated as alternates.

At the July meeting Susan Payne mentioned that it was Elaine Luckey's moving day and that she is now an honorary member, Elaine's name will be taken off the members list this should be added to the minutes of the July meeting.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the July 7, 2004 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Kelly Boling made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the July 7th meeting. Diane Dupuis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Susan Payne will contact Elaine Luckey she needs to put her resignation in writing.

There will be a meeting of The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters held in Washington on September 18th members should contact Susan if they are interested.

Referrals from other Commissions

New Milford Zoning Commission - Proposed Cluster Conservation Subdivision/Walker Brook Road and Route 109. The New Milford Zoning Commission notified the Washington Town Clerk of the above mentioned application because the project is within 500' of the boundary of the Town of Washington. Kelly Boling is concerned with the possibility of this subdivision being serviced by Walker Brook Road in Washington. This portion of Walker Brook Road in Washington is a one lane dirt road and in Kelly's opinion improving this road is not in keeping with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

*** At 5:15pm Joe Gitterman asked that the Conservation Commission go into Executive Session. All members present were in agreement. The Executive Session ended at 5:20pm. ***

Susan Payne read letters attached to the plans from Janet Hill, Land Use Coordinator, Kathy Castagnetta, New Milford Zoning Enforcement Officer and Dan McGuinness, Northwest Connecticut Council of Governments. Kelly Boling expressed concern with the impact on Route 109 with its steep hills and bad site lines. Joe Gitterman added that part of the focus should be on impact to the stream, erosion and sediment problems that would be created by this subdivision. Mr. Boling suggested asking the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) to do base line documentation and on going monitoring. Linda Frank asked what the rights were of the adjoining town. Ms. Payne answered that we have the right to comment. Mr. Gitterman addressed concern with the plans showing building on wetlands and steep slopes, to what extent does New Milford regulate these areas? Mr. Boling also asked about commenting on the view shed. Susan Payne will contact Phil Markert about the WEC testing and monitoring. Kelly Boling offered to draft the letter to the Town of New Milford which will include all the concerns discussed by members. Mr. Boling will also draft a memo to the Board of Selectman asking that they

make a resolution that they are not in favor of widening or paving Walker Brook Road or Wheaton Road because this is not in keeping with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. The memo to the Board of Selectman will pass through Chairperson, Susan Payne and the draft to New Milford will be emailed to Conservation members for feed back before being sent out. The Public Hearing on this application will be on September 28, 2004 at 7:30pm in the Loretta Brickley Conference Room in the New Milford Town Hall at 10 Main Street in New Milford. Kelly Boling asked about sending notification of this upcoming Public Hearing to people on the Town web site email list. Diane Dupuis asked about distributing packets to developers about wildlife and conservation issues. Susan Payne responded that this has never been done that she knows of.

TPOCD - Open Space Committee report

Susan Payne reported that the Open Space Committee has been working hard, they will do a five minutes presentation at the Annual Town Meeting on October 4th. They have drafted an article for the Town Times and will present at their own meeting later in the fall. Dan Sherr is doing a fine job as the Chairman.

Farmland Preservation

Diane Dupuis asked about the acreage for Potter's Farm. Susan Payne said that the farm acreage is approximately 130 acres and they use about 1,000 additional acres which is not all in Washington. Ms. Payne said that this information is being analyzed. Members discussed briefly the future of this land.

Management and Monitoring of Town Properties

Linda Frank circulated an email reminding members about their monitoring duties. She has received a few reports, things are moving along.

Susan Payne mentioned that Addie Roberts is now the Chairman for the Planning Commission and perhaps this committee could revisit the issue of set asides with her.

Subcommittee Reports

Canoe Brook - no report

School Connection - no activity

Cell Tower - Diane Dupuis informed members that the land on Rabbit Hill which was a possible cell tower site has been sold. Diane once again questioned getting information to developers and real estate agents about wildlife and preservation. Susan said that she would add this to next month agenda for discussion.

Joe Gitterman started giving information to members about how Europe installs cell towers in churches in England. Diane Dupuis interrupted him stating that she has stacks of documented evidence about risks to health, birds and the environment. Discussion was brief.

Land Use Data Management - no activity - Kelly Boling will get the assessors maps to George Blake.

Flora & Fauna no report - Diane Dupuis stated that leopard frogs have be spotted in Meeker Swamp, this is a good sign. Ms. Dupuis also stated that she was going to encourage purple loosestrife removal as a community service project for the high school students.

Greenway - The next meeting is September 13th - Cyndy Brisset will have a mock up of the trail guide for this meeting. Dirk Sabin is going to discuss planting suggestions for the Town's property next to the Greenway off of School Street.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet - The pamphlet is completed, Tony Bedini as Chairman did a great job with his committees help. Conservation members were asked to vote on green or blue for a color. All agreed on green. The pamphlet should go to the printers early next week. Great project a job well done! Copies of the completed pamphlet were given to members.

Scenic Road - Joe Gitterman reports that the How-To-Packets are in the Planning Office. He is now ready to move on to a master plan for designation of Scenic Roads. Using information from the Natural Resource Inventory Report might be a first step. Shinar Mountain Road was designated Scenic. Kelly Boling asked about designating state roads as scenic. Mr. Gitterman answered that he has the book.

Water Resources - no report

Other Business

Linda Frank reminded members of the Lake Waramaug Agreement vote on Thursday September 2nd at 7:30pm at the Town of Washington Special Meeting. There was a brief discussion on the history of the agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is October 6th, 2004 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,
Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary