

September 17, 2003

Present: Chairperson Susan Payne, Kelly Boling, Joe Gitterman

Alternate: Linda Frank

Guest: First Selectman Elaine Luckey

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

Linda Frank was seated as an alternate.

MOTION: Approval of the minutes from the September 3, 2003 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Linda Frank made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3rd meeting with the following amendment; under Referrals from other Commissions - Erbs/51 Sunset Lane - 4 lot subdivision; the first sentence should read Ms. Payne reported ... Chris Charles and Kelly Boling have approached the Erbs Joe Gitterman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Referrals from other commissions:

Continued discussion of Sunset Lane Subdivision: Susan Payne informed members that the property owners are gifting the property to their children so by state statute they are not required to have open space set aside. A discussion ensued about open space set aside and fees-in-lieu of open space. Joe Gitterman felt that the set aside requirement penalizes the town because most often the land set aside is of no use to the town and also comes off the tax roles, all benefits are for the property owner.

West Church Hill Road Conservation Easement: No new developments. Susan Payne once again encouraged members to drive by this property, it has been cleared and the easement has been flagged. There was continued discussion on the need to come up with a management plan for town properties. This plan needs to be forwarded to the Planning Commission. The Chairman will put this on the Agenda for the next meeting

Road Discontinuation & Greenway Potential: Kelly Boling reported that the Planning Commission had no objection to the list of roads submitted for discontinuation. His committee will meet next week with the town attorney in attendance after that meeting he will schedule a meeting with adjoining property owners. Kelly's goal is to get this to a town meeting as soon as possible. Ms. Payne suggested adding Nova Scotia Hill to their list.

Monitoring Town Properties: Linda Frank has met with Chip Miller from the Gunnery; he seems thrilled with the monitoring idea. Linda is also going to talk with the Devereux/Glenholm School. Ms. Frank is looking ahead to having a workshop on recording baseline documentation.

Subcommittee Reports:

Canoe Brook: Elaine Luckey reports that work is ongoing with this project.

School Connection (SVHS) and Gunnery/Environmental Club: see above

Cell Tower: no new information

Data Management: no new information

Flora & Fauna: Betsy Corrigan reported via Susan Payne that the giant hogweed plant is gone, Greenway is working on a knotweed eradication experiment, and the native lupines Betsy has been monitoring were able to go to seed before mowing.

Greenway: Susan Payne reminded members that there will be a work day at the New Preston Falls on Sunday September 21st at 9:00am. Pam Osborne, secretary inquired about the trail monitoring forms she has been receiving. Ms. Payne told Pam to forward the information to Bob Williams.

Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet: This committee meets again on Tuesday September 23rd.

Scenic Road Ordinance: The ordinance is posted on the town's web site. It is on the agenda for the September 25th selectmen's meeting and then will be put on the agenda for the October 6th town meeting.

Water Resources: no new information

TPOCD public forum scheduled for October 29th, 2003 at 7:30pm. Minutes will no longer be forwarded to Chris Woods at Planimetrics.

Other Business

"Ordinance Authorizing Acquisition of Open Space Land": This item is on the agenda for the October 6th town meeting. Joe Gitterman questioned the flexibility given to the Planning Commission in paragraph (2) as opposed to the limitation on the Conservation Commission in paragraph (1) for acquisitions. There was much discussion on this difference. Ms. Luckey, First Selectmen stated that this ordinance had been worded by Mike Zizka a land use attorney. She will check with him on the difference.

The chairperson and members were in agreement to submit the minutes on disc to be posted on the town's web site at the same time they are given to the town clerk for recording, which are (7) working days after the commission's meeting.

Linda Frank asked about cutting back the twice monthly meeting to once a month. Linda stated that with subcommittee activity this might be helpful. A special meeting could be called if so needed. Members were asked to give this some thought.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission is October 1, 2003 at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary