

# September 18, 2002

**Present:** Susan Payne, Chairman, Ruth Alex, Joe Gitterman

**Alternates:** Linda Frank, Linda Potter

Susan Payne, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Members are reminded to notify Pam Osborne, Secretary if they are unable to attend a meeting. Members may call the Land Use office at 868-0423 and leave a message.

Linda Frank and Linda Potter were seated as alternates.

**MOTION:** Approval of the minutes of the September 4, 2002 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission, Joe Gitterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4th meeting with the following correction, under "Subcommittee Reports - Water Resources" the date should be October 2nd, not October 4th as stated. Ruth Alex seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Referrals from other commissions:** none

**Cell Tower Committee Report:** none

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Scenic Vistas/Roads:** Pam Osborne continues to work on the first draft of the scenic road ordinance. Pam will get the document back to Joe Gitterman to proof by his subcommittee.

**Greenway:** Susan Payne mentioned that Greenway is still looking for a representative from the New Preston area. Susan also asked Pam to notify members that the October 1st 4:30pm meeting will be held at the Washington Primary School grounds. Members are going ahead with planting in the school yard section of the Greenway. Dirk Sabin and Susan Payne have had discussion about the East Aspetuck River area.

**Flora:** no report

**Water Resources:** no report

**New-appoint committee to create Land Use Info/Welcome Pamphlet:** Pam will check with area towns to see what they offer.

**Canoe Brook Project Update:** Linda Frank has no new information to share.

**Land Trust Issue:** Susan Payne circulated a memo she had received from George Bender and stated that George Bender, Michael Jackson and she had met on Tuesday September 10th to discuss open space management. Susan asked members if they felt that the Conservation Commission wanted to become recipients of land. Linda Potter raised the question of the burden of monitoring and the legal obligations that go along with the monitoring. Joe Gitterman added his concern for the potential disaster of monitoring the "mini" land parcels created in development set asides. Members felt that the town could work together with existing land trust organizations (Steep Rock, Weantinoge etc.) without creating a new entity.

**MOTION: Joe Gitterman made the following motion, the Conservation Commission strongly urges that no new entity be created to accept open space for the Town of Washington and that Steep Rock Association or an existing land trust organization or professional be utilized; as a last resort the Conservation Commission would accept parcels for the Town of Washington and would contract with a qualified organization/professional to do the necessary monitoring of the parcel, seconded by Ruth Alex and passed unanimously.**

Members went on to discuss the Conservation Commissions' input on the "set asides" created for open space. The issue of using wetlands as these set asides was raised once again and members felt this needed to be resolved. Susan will speak with Janet Hill, Planning Commission secretary and George Bender Chairman of the Planning Commission.

**Other Business:**

Pam Osborne, secretary asked members about submitting minutes to the town website. Members decided that the minutes would be submitted after they had been approved.

Joe Gitterman inquired about the Commission Chairs meetings. Susan stated that the Chairs had met once; she will contact First Selectman Elaine Luckey about scheduling.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

**Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is October 2nd at 7:00pm.**

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary