

September 5, 2007

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

Guests: Dick Sears

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm, no alternates were seated.

Motion: Joe Gitterman made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission as submitted, Linda Frank seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Referrals

Brown/Bufum Road, conservation easement: Members were emailed the proposed conservation easement for the Brown-Carroll property at 41 Bufum Road. Feed back included Betsy Corrigan's thought that herbicides be allowed for eradication of invasive species. Ms. Payne stated that the Planning Commission approved this application on the condition that David Miles, Esq. review the conservation easement language.

Aragi Woodbridge Subdivision, Wilbur Road: This application has been withdrawn. First Selectman, Dick Sears stated that he has had no response from Peter Pappas about the suggestion that Birch Hill Run turn their road over to the Town. In seeking advice from council Mr. Sears added that you cannot force the property owner to turn their road over to the Town. Mr. Sears is hopeful that Mr. Aragi will engage in conversation with Mr. Pappas to use the same access for both properties, if and when a new proposal is brought forward. Ms. Payne reminded members that for this and future proposals, cluster housing development was and should be discussed.

Abella subdivision, Scofield Hill Road: Susan Payne had the latest maps for this proposal and was pleased to see that Paul Szymanski had incorporated the Conservation Commission suggestion of a buffer on the western boundary along lots #2 and #3. The Planning Commission has continued the Abella public hearing and conservation easement language will be forth coming.

First Selectman, Dick Sears had a few items to share with Conservation Commission members. First Mr. Sears met with Ed Edelson of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition who discussed the group's research on the impact of rain/water to the aquifer and placing value on specific parcels with consideration of its water resources. Next Dick noted that Congressman Chris Murphy's top aide visited the Lake Waramaug area. Members went on to discuss water resources and had a brief conversation about GIS and Arc View programs and information. Mr. Sears reported that the invasive species workshops held at the River Loop Property (old town garage site) was a success. He went on to say that Betsy Corrigan gave a great presentation and lots of work was done. On the cell tower front Dick reported that they are just waiting for the siting council's finding all documentation has been submitted. He asked Susan Payne for the cell tower survey results; Susan reported that she will submit a report for the Town newsletter and a full report will be done. Phil Markert asked if Diane Dupuis has taken up the cell tower health issues with legislators. Lastly the First Selectman, Dick Sears stated that the selectmen haven't addressed scenic road designation for state roads. Ms. Payne told Mr. Sears that the Conservation Commission was moving ahead on possible scenic road designation for a portion of Route 202.

Joe Gitterman asked Dick Sears about scheduling meetings between the commission chairs more often. Joe feels there is a need for the committees to work more closely together and charged the selectmen with holding the commission chairs responsible for doing the will of the townspeople and not having their own

personal agenda at the expense of the citizens. Mr. Sears asked Mr. Gitterman to email him with specifics.

Dick Sears left at 5:50pm.

Top Priorities for Action from Town Plan of Conservation and Development (TPOCD): Susan Payne asked members to systematically looking over the 2003 TPOCD to come up with ideas to move ahead on. Kelly Boling's suggestions were: 1. Checking over the land use regulations are they producing the desired outcome? 2. Encourage village center development 3. Permanent preservation of open space and maintaining rural roadscape. Susan Payne's suggestions were: 1. Research cluster development. 2. Enhance village centers. 3. Scenic resource preservation. 4. Evaluating the town's regulations. 5. Working together to preserve rural character. Phil Markert spoke about engaging in long term discussion about the town's road traffic, manipulating the transient and local traffic. He also spoke about preservation of open space, looking at the town's regulations, are they accomplishing what the people want?

Members went back to discussing the commission chairs meetings and had varied suggestions to help with getting the commissions to talk and work together.

Subcommittee Reports

Cell Tower: This topic was covered earlier with Dick Sears, as stated Susan Payne will submit a report for the Town newsletter.

Scenic road: Joe Gitterman left three copies of the information submitted for scenic road designation of the "lake road" with secretary, Pamela Osborne. Pam will check to see if Kelly Boling and Dan Sherr need copies of these documents. Susan Payne is encouraging residents of Whittlesey Road to seek scenic road designation. Joe Gitterman offered his help. Linda Frank has taken pictures along the Route 2002 corridor.

Archeological Resources Protection: Susan Payne reminded members of the packet of information handed out about archeological resources.

Open Space Committee: Will meet next Thursday September 13th at 4:00pm.

Ridgeline Protection: no activity

Greenway: Ms. Payne reported that they will meet on Monday September 10th. Bob Williams will seek help from the town crew to make repairs along the Greenway by the river's edge near the Washington Primary School. Susan noted that the planting done by the primary school location is doing well.

Management & monitoring of Town properties: no activity

Water Resources: Phil Markert noted the abundance of information available on state websites about water resources.

Note: November 7th @ 7:00pm special program "Clean Air-Cool Planet".

Other Business

There is a deadline for submission of articles for the Town Times of September 7th.

Annual reports are due by October 15th.

Adjourned at 6:40pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Washington Conservation Commission is Wednesday October 3rd at 5:00pm.

Submitted subject to approval,

Pamela L. Osborne, Secretary