

West Windsor Conservation Commission

Ted Siegler (Chair), Bob Smith, Win Johnson, Mark Nowlan,
Barb Gerstner, Cathy Boedtke, Laura Stillson

Monday, June 21, 2010

Call to order 7:010 PM, Story Hall, West Windsor

In attendance: Ted Siegler, Barbara Gerstner, Cathy Boedtke, Win Johnson, Laura Stillson

Absent: Mark Nowlan, Bob Smith

Guest: Jason Rasmussen, Southern Windsor RPC

Approval of May 3, 2010 minutes

Motion by Win Johnson to approve minutes

Seconded: Laura Stillson

Vote: Unanimous

Jason Rasmussen presented an overview of the potential for overlay ridgeline zoning. Jason provided examples of Reading's ridgeline zoning map, and the language for Woodstock and Stowe's ridgeline zoning. Jason said that there were essentially two general approaches, one is simply sitting down with maps and drawing in potential areas, and the other is a much more complex process (which he has not participated in) to do a visual analysis and establish criteria for designating areas for ridgeline zoning.

There was significant discussion about the potential role of the Conservation Commission, with no general agreement on how to move forward, although there was general agreement with Win Johnson's position that the Conservation Commission should at least move forward on developing recommendations for lighting in West Windsor to protect the night view.

Jason suggested that grant funding might be available this fall to hire someone to work with the Conservation Commission on the ridgeline zoning issue and it was agreed to place the issue on the agenda for the next meeting after members had had a chance to review the ordinances and maps provided by Jason from surrounding towns. It was also agreed that members of the Reading Conservation Commission should be invited to discuss the process they went through.

The Conservation Commission then moved to Ancient Roads. A motion was made by Win Johnson, seconded by Barbara Gerstner that *The Conservation Commission believes that the perspective trade of what the Conservation Commission believes is a Town Road through the Pakenham property for a one year license is not an acceptable trade; further, that the scheduling of a critical negotiating meeting on this Town Road should not take place on the first day that the Town is provided with research by the landowner's attorney that the Conservation Commission has been waiting for three months to receive; further, that the Town should not give up the Town Road on an adjacent property during negotiations over the perspective Town Road through the Pakenham property; and finally, that the Selectboard call an executive committee meeting with the Conservation Commission, acting as the Ancient Roads Committee, to discuss any negotiated agreement before it is finalized.*

A motion was made by Win Johnson and seconded by Laura Stillson at 8:30 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss this particular road because of potential litigation. The Conservation Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:45.

The motion on the floor was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Win Johnson and seconded by Cathy Boedtke to table the agenda item concerning closing out the Ancient Roads Committee until such time as the current negotiations

concerning the Town Road through the Pakenham property have been completed. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates were provided on the Bernatchez and Greenall easements, and on the GMHA proposed easement language.

Under other business Cathy Boedtke and Laura Stillson provided an update on the Selectboard meeting with the Town Forest Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Ted Siegler - acting secretary

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