

Conservation and Open Space Commission (COSC)

Minutes of August 27, 2007 Regular Meeting at Windham Town Hall

Called to Order: 7:08 PM by Chairman Westerfield

Members Present: Michael Westerfield, Jean de Smet, Barbara McGrath, Marsha Hildenrad, Diane Smith.

Others present: Tara Risely, Windham Recreation Director and Citizen Curtis Ehler

Citizens and Delegations: Lance Curtis attending to observe.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of July 23rd, 2007 were approved.

Correspondence: none

Discussion of procedures related to payments in lieu of land set aside for conservation in subdivisions and use of COSC funds: Member de Smet reports that she reviewed Windham's Charter and did not find any additional inconsistencies or conflicts (as described in earlier minutes).

Members reviewed Chairman Westerfield's draft communiqué to the Planning Commission suggesting changes to the wording of Windham's Subdivision regulations 4.9.4.C. McGrath moved to accept the proposed resolution, Smith seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued, however, and Smith moved to amend (see below) the document, de Smet seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The amendments are as follows:

Under "Windham Conservation and Open Space Commission: Procedures for Submission and Review of Land Use Proposals," the following text replaces # 1:

1. The Conservation and Open Space Commission Chair must receive in writing or by electronic means requests for review of land use proposals at least one calendar week prior to the regular meeting of the Commission at which the review process will be initiated. When possible, initiation of the review process will be added to the agenda of the next regular Commission meeting. The Commission will notify the applicant in writing of the receipt of a proposal for review and the schedule of the review process.

Under # 2., the following text in brackets was added:

"Normally this would consist of [but not be limited to] site plans . . ."

Also under # 2., the following change was made:

The ", etc." at the end of the final sentence in this section was deleted and the [and] in brackets added, so that the sentence now ends as follows:

"Normally . . . location and dimensions of proposed buildings, septic systems, [and] paved areas.

The # 3. Statement was amended to read as follows:

The Commission will make every effort to deliver its opinion and recommendations on the conservation and open space impacts, or lack thereof, of a land use proposal within 45 calendar days to the Windham Town Planner for distribution to the relevant Town land use boards and commissions and a copy to the applicant.

The # 4. Statement text was moved to conclude # 1., so there now is no # 4.

Recreation Director Risely will invite Barbara from Town Finance to get information regarding this issue.

McGrath moved to empower and direct the COSC chair to discuss these procedures related to this resolution with the First Selectman and the Town Planner. The Chair also will send the resolution to the Planning Commission so that commission may propose suggestions for changes to the Zoning Commission. The COSC secretary will include these changes in the minutes.

Discussion of Conservation Priorities for Various Areas Within the Town of Windham: de Smet noted that the Windham Mills are changing hands and that the COSC may want to investigate possible property acquisition for open space/preservation. Commission members reviewed the maps and identified possible desirable areas for conservation in Windham.

Other Business: Risely will request from WINCOG the Town of Windham Aquifer Protection Zone Map, 1980, as referred to in the Windham Zoning Regulations 5.4.1.

Citizens and Delegations: none

Adjourn: McGrath moved that the commission adjourn, Hildenrad seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Smith