

Approved on November 29, 2017

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held October 25, 2017**

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

Commissioners present:

Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (Chair)

Call to Order, Judy Williams, 7:05 PM

Minutes of 9-27-17 were amended to clarify the agreement between the Town of Plainfield acting through the Conservation Commission and the Franklin Land Trust as co-holders of the conservation restriction on the Nelson/Sargent land. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. Passed unanimously.

New Member

We welcomed John Burns as a new member of the Conservation Commission. John has valuable experience working on environmental issues. We look forward to working with him.

Wetlands Map

Jack brought a map provided by Mark Stinson showing wetlands and 100-year flood plains in Plainfield. Copies of the map will be placed in the Town Garage, Town Offices and Conservation Committee meeting room. John will provide a frame for the ConCom meeting room map. John will contact Mass GIS to inquire about an area in Plainfield marked “West Hawley” on the map.

Wetland Compliance Information sheets

Jack talked with Building Inspector Gerry Garner about our Wetland Compliance Information sheets. Gerry will staple the sheets to the building permits.

Plainfield/Franklin Land Trust MOA

Commission reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOA) between the Town of Hawley, acting through its Conservation Commission and the Franklin Land Trust. A similar document will be developed for the Town of Plainfield acting through the Conservation Commission and the Franklin Land Trust as co-holders of a conservation restriction on the Nelson/Sargent property. Jack pointed out that specific restrictions were not noted on our copy of the Hawley Memorandum. He said that such restrictions and responsibilities were yet to be worked out for the MOA on the Nelson/Sargent land.

Forest Cutting Plan, Central Street

Jack spoke to Ed Kohn who owns the field on the east side of South Central where a hut has been built and cutting equipment set up. Ed has leased the field, which is APR land, to someone who will graze cattle on it. He is allowing temporary access, but not a permanent easement, from his field to the adjoining woodland owned by James Page and managed by his father, Alan Page.

Jack spoke with Service Forester Alison Wright regarding the Alan Page Central Street Cutting Plan. The forester on the project is Steve Smith. Judy would like to arrange a site visit to the property with Alison.

MACC Fall Conference

A brief discussion followed of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) fall conference to be held in Sturbridge 10-28-17. Plainfield commissioners are not planning to attend the Oct. conference. Some commissioners always attend the annual MACC spring conference and find it a valuable resource.

Property Adjacent to 330 Main Street

Judy explained that the property across from Hathaway Hall was purchased from the Town by Gary Rzab and Janine Parker, residents of the Old Parsonage at 330 Main Street. The property includes significant jurisdictional areas and is full of debris, some of it large and half buried. Gary would like to have the property delineated as a wetland in order to qualify for grants to clean out the debris.

Lina Bernstein has in the past suggested that the property could be developed as a wildlife refuge and observation area with trails installed.

Other Business

There will be an All Boards meeting Tues. Nov. 7, 7:00 P.M. in Town Hall to discuss the budget. Jack will attend.

Alice will send the minutes to members after each meeting and again after they are approved at the following meeting if corrections have been made. She will send approved minutes to be posted on the town website.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 29, 2017, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall.

Adjourned, 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Alice Schertle