

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held April 26, 2017**

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

Commissioners present: Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (Chair)

Also present: Kelley Fike, Project Engineer, SVE Associates

Call to Order, Judy Williams, 7:05 P.M.

Plainfield Solar Union Street Project, Update

Kelley Fike brought a copy of the Electronically Recorded Document Form 5, Order of Conditions. She also brought, for Commission review, the current plans, Revision D, of the solar array project. The revised plans, as yet not officially signed, reflect changes made after an inspection of the North Array area by Ward Smith of Wendell Wetland Services and responses made to ZBA requests.

Newly surveyed wetlands identified by Ward Smith east of the north array are located away from the project area.

A northernmost drainage swale was removed to allow a more natural water flow.

Two southern basins were combined to form one larger basin.

An additional erosion control barrier was added to control downslope drainage to the west.

Plans include a detail of the natural debris berm at the base of the steepest slope.

Kelley provided the Commission with a list of seed mixes to be used. All are non-GMO. She will give us a copy of the officially signed final plan when available. Kelley left the meeting after the solar update.

Minutes

Judy Williams moved that the minutes of 3-29-17 be approved as read. Jack Nelson seconded.

Vote was unanimous in favor.

Other Business

Commission reviewed a questionnaire sent to Judy by the Land Stewardship Coordinator of the Hilltown Land Trust. Members felt that most of the issues and services reflected did not apply to conditions in Plainfield.

An information session will be held Thursday 5-4-17, at Town Hall, to explain four non-binding resolutions, including proposals for a Carbon Fee and Dividend and Pollinator Protection, to be voted on at the annual town meeting.

Jack reported that the Draft Priority Habitat Map from the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program, includes some new areas in Plainfield.

Gene Benson is resigning as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC).

Commission reviewed a circular graph from American Scientist Magazine, brought by Jack, indicating the projected life of various resources such as coal, gas, oil and various minerals. Jack also brought a Franklin Land Trust brochure titled Peaceful Places addressing subjects such as creating refuges in cold-water streams.

Jack showed a slide presentation prepared by Mark Stinson on solar arrays in or near wetlands, including construction procedures and erosion control measures, both successful and unsuccessful.

Adjourned, 8:45 P.M.

Next Meeting of the Conservation Commission will be Wednesday, May 31, at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle