

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held May 31, 2017

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

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

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

Minutes of 4-26-17 were amended to clarify that the draft Priority Habitat Map from NHESP includes new areas in Plainfield. Jack moved, Erik seconded the minutes be approved as amended. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Solar Project

Commission reviewed the ZBA Special Permit and Site Plan Approval for the Union Street solar project. The plan was reviewed and approved by the ZBA's peer review engineer and filed with the Town Clerk on 5-18-17. Both the ZBA and the Conservation Commission approved the project with multiple conditions.

Commission discussed the question of how important the visual component, including visibility from abutters and from the street, will be for future solar projects. More specific clarification and direction may be needed.

There has been discussion of placement of solar panels on roofs of public buildings in Plainfield.

Forest Cutting

Commission reviewed the folder of forest cutting plans which was stored in the meeting room. Erik will check plans dating back 5 years and will contact Service Forester Alison Wright to determine which plans have been completed. He will look into a procedure to notify the Conservation Commission when forest cutting plans are complete.

Erik reported that in the Otis State forest, where the Connecticut Expansion Project involves extensive tree cutting, a sign has appeared, stating "Quiet Zone."

Other Business

Judy passed out copies of old Welcome to the Plainfield Conservation Commission sheets intended to familiarize residents, including newcomers to town, with procedures such as RDA submission, NOI filing, site visits, public hearings and other interactions of property owners and the Conservation Commission. Commissioners will review the sheets and make suggestions for alterations or additions at the next meeting.

In a spurt of organizational frenzy members spent the last half of the meeting cleaning out and organizing files in the meeting room. A particular challenge involved sorting through piles of items, in various stages of disintegration, stacked atop the file cabinets. After careful inspection, some items of uncertain provenance, including a sock and a glove, were disposed of.

Next meeting of the Conservation Commission: Wednesday, June 28, 2017, in the Town Hall.

Adjourned, 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle