

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting Held September 27, 2017**

*Approved as amended on October 25, 2017*

Meeting was held in Town Hall. Commissioners present: Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (Chair); absent: Erik Burcroff. Also present:

John Burns, Plainfield resident, environmental consultant

Alain Peteroy, Director of Land Conservation, Franklin Land Trust

Howard Bronstein, Plainfield Board of Selectmen (Chair)

Mert Taylor, Jr., Supervisor, Plainfield Highway Department

**Call to Order**, Judy Williams, 7:05 PM

### **Swift River Grant**

Alain Peteroy discussed the state grant obtained by the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) for the Swift River Project land acquisition and conservation restrictions. Commissioners reviewed a map provided by Alain. The Town of Plainfield, acting through the Conservation Commission, agreed to co-hold with the FLT the conservation restriction on the Jack Nelson/Jeanne Sargent land. Judy Williams signed a form brought by Alain, confirming the co-holding agreement. Details of the agreement, including specific restrictions and responsibilities, will be decided in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Alain distributed copies of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Hawley, acting through its Conservation Commission, and the Franklin Land Trust. A similar document will be drafted to clarify and allocate duties and responsibilities of the Town of Plainfield and the Franklin Land Trust as co-holders of a conservation restriction.

Commissioners will review the Hawley draft and meet with Alain to suggest any changes or additions for a Plainfield/Franklin Land Trust MOU. We hope to be able to conduct this review at the next Conservation Commission meeting, Oct. 25.

Alain said The Franklin Land Trust does a title search on all acquisitions. They are aiming for a March closing.

### **Bow Street Enforcement Order**

Jack observed the work done under the Enforcement Order, to restore the wetland on Bow Street. Jack and Mert described the procedures used. They walked the area to be restored and determined the shoulder area necessary for safety. Ron Weeks used his excavator to remove the introduced soil. The bank was stabilized.

Howard expressed concern about the expense of such corrections and asked how they could be avoided. A discussion followed about possible future culvert work and other road work in jurisdictional areas. Commissioners agreed that some wetland areas can be hard to recognize, particularly when there is no standing water. Mert will inform the Commission whenever there is a question concerning road work in a possible jurisdictional area. Mert asked if a map could be provided clearly indicating all wetlands in Plainfield. The Commission felt that Mark Stinson may be able to provide a map large enough for this purpose. We will research it and get a map color coded to indicate wetlands.

### **Eversource Tree Cutting**

Judy reported that Eversource is tagging up to 1,000 trees for removal in Plainfield. The company states this is necessary to prevent damage to lines from falling trees. Howard felt it is important to remove any tree that poses a hazard. Mert said he receives requests for tree removal from residents who complain of danger from falling trees. Judy pointed out the environmental benefit of maintaining our forests and said that some landowners have expressed concern about the extent of the planned cutting in Plainfield. Judy said we should have a program to replace each tree removed with a newly-planted one.

### **Site Visit**

Judy made a site visit on 9-26-17 to the Laurie Holmes property on North Union, where a small front porch will be added. There are no wetland issues regarding the porch construction; Judy signed off on the project. A large number of solar panels have been installed on the property.

### **Minutes**

It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that the minutes of 8-30-17 be accepted as read.

### **Other Business**

Judy gave new MACC membership cards to Jack and Alice. The MACC Conference was discussed. Most of the \$600 Plainfield Conservation Commission budget goes for attendance at the Conference. John Burns attends and agrees that the Conference is excellent.

Jack brought copies of his revision of the Wetlands Compliance Information Sheet for property owners. He gave copies to the Building Inspector and the Town Offices.

Jack observed a semi-permanent structure, skidder and other cutting equipment in a field on the east side of South Central. He will contact forester Alison Wright to inquire about the project.

Alice attended the 9-18-17 informational meeting on a proposed marijuana cultivation facility on Broom Street. She said Ed Kohn expressed a concern about pesticides and other chemicals used and possible run-off from the facility into Meadow Brook, which borders the property. The issue will be addressed by the Conservation Commission during the permitting process.

Jack said that Ed Kohn has recommended the formation of “stream teams” to monitor and assess the conditions of Plainfield’s streams.

We have invited John Burns to join the Conservation Commission. His experience and expertise would be a great asset to the Commission and we hope he will accept.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 7:00 PM in the Town Hall.

Adjourned, 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle