

Approved as amended on January 31, 2018

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held November 29, 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 P.M.

Minutes

John Burns moved, Jack Nelson seconded, that the minutes of 10-25-17 be approved as written. Passed unanimously.

It was agreed that minutes will be read by members prior to the meeting but not read aloud at the meeting. Minutes will be reviewed and accepted or amended at each meeting.

Priority Resources Map

John brought a copy of the Priority Resources Map, framed expertly on a bulletin board. We mounted it on the wall of the meeting room.

All Boards Meeting

Jack reported that the All Boards Meeting included a presentation on proposed communication with town officials through an official Gmail account. Lew Robbins reported on a more proactive approach to financial planning. The approach was described in the Plainfield Post.

Forest Cutting Plans

Judy reviewed a forest cutting plan on the Rich Potter property at the corner of West Street and 116. Ty Stockman is the forester. A firewood cut of 5,000 board feet is planned to remove low-grade wood, primarily white pine, spruce and red maple.

Commission discussed the Alan Page cutting plan on South Central. The Forester is Steve Smith. Access to the woodlot is through an APR field owned by Ed Kohn. A Quonset hut and machinery have been set up in the field. Concern was expressed about possible fuel contamination from the stored machinery. Jurisdiction over an APR field would be held by the state. Erik will seek an update on the cutting project from Service Forester Alison Wright. Judy would like to arrange, through Alison, a site visit to the logging site adjacent to the APR land.

Site Visit, Alden Lane

A site visit was made by all five commissioners on November 9, 2017, to property on Alden Lane. They were joined by property owner Marti Patten, who plans to build a residence on the site. There is a perennial stream on the property. Commissioners found that Mr. Patten's proposed building location would not be permitted under the River Protection Act as it lies within the 200-foot boundary from the stream. Judy consulted with DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson, who confirmed that a 200-foot boundary from the stream must be respected unless there is no reasonable alternative. The property owned by Mr. Patten does provide such an alternative.

Judy subsequently contacted Phil Pless, the realtor involved in Mr. Patten's purchase of the property, to clarify the requirements of the Act in regard to building location.

Photovoltaic System Solar Array Review

Judy distributed to members copies of a document provided by Mark Stinson outlining policies and procedures for reviewing ground-mounted solar photovoltaic systems relative to wetland jurisdiction. Commissioners reviewed and discussed the document.

Other Business

Judy recommended Mark Stinson's Circuit Rider News to John as a valuable and informative resource.

Judy asked John to use his laptop to call up a website on the Energy and Environmental Affairs portal on which individual towns can be selected to check enforcement actions, permits issued, inspections made, program data and facilities.

John called up Mass GIS to check vernal pools certified in Plainfield. A vernal pool near the Hawley border was noted.

Jack brought a copy of the revised Building Permit form with our Wetlands Compliance Information Sheet attached. A notice to abutters form letter is available.

Jack reported on the new Open Meeting regulations, including meeting posting requirements. Meeting dates, times, locations and agendas must be posted within 48 hours of a meeting. Posted agendas can be amended any time before the meeting, with the date and time of amending noted. The Select Board will decide if posting can be done on line. Open Meeting regulations include requirements for remote participation in a meeting.

Jack reported that work is still being done on wording of the Nelson/Sargent Conservation Restriction with the Franklin Land Trust.

Erik spoke on the issue of replacement of the trees to be removed by Eversource along the expanded power line corridor. He suggested that not only trees but other native plants such as blueberries could be used in the cut areas. He urged that the Conservation Commission make an official request to Eversource that such plant replacement be done. Commissioners agreed.

Judy reported that she signed off on a building permit for a free-standing solar array for Jamie and Roberta Wooldridge, 63 South Central Street.

There will be no regularly scheduled meeting in December. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 7:00 P.M. in Town Hall.

At 8:15 P.M. Erik moved, Jack seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle