

Approved 3-28-18

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held February 28, 2018**

Meeting was held in Town Hall. Commissioners present:
Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (Chair)
Plainfield resident Pleun Bouricius joined the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

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

Minutes

Erik moved, Jack seconded that the minutes of 1-31-18 be accepted as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Tree Cutting, Planning Discussion

Pleun Bouricius joined the meeting at 7:15 to express concern about the tree cutting being conducted along town roadways by loggers subcontracted by Eversource. Pleun stated that felled trees and branches are often allowed to remain on roadsides and deep ruts are caused by vehicles used. She feels that some trees are being removed unnecessarily. Jack stated that he has observed similar problems. Pleun feels the town should be pro-active in articulating a vision of what we want Plainfield to look like. She suggests that groups such as the Conservation Commission, Historical Society, Planning Board, Agricultural Commission, the Tree Warden and others set an agenda and provide guidelines to address tree cutting and other matters affecting Plainfield's vision. Judy suggested a professional arborist might be brought in to help in assessing our needs and creating a plan.

A discussion followed of calling a town meeting to discuss the issues. Pleun will contact the Agricultural Commission about the idea. Judy will contact Tree Warden Winton Pitcoff, the Historical Society, and the Planning Board.

Certificate of Compliance for Franklin Land Trust for Guyette Property

Judy read a letter from Sloan Anderson, Head Land Steward of the Franklin Land Trust referencing an Order of Conditions for an NOI filed in 2009. Mr. Anderson enclosed two photographs showing a bridge and river crossing structure completed on the Guyette property in 2010. The Conservation Commission will meet with a representative of the Franklin Land Trust to conduct a site visit to the Guyette property prior to signing a Certificate of Compliance. The site visit was set for Monday March 12 at 4:00 P.M.

Culvert Replacement Assistance Program Grant

Jack described the DER grant for replacement of undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts. Plainfield has many culverts which could not withstand the extreme storms becoming more common due to climate change. A culvert on Prospect or one on Gloyd would be good

candidates for the replacement grant. Jack has spoken with Highway Superintendent Mert Taylor, Jr. in regard to the grant program.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

There followed a brief discussion of the state program which provides grants to communities to complete vulnerability assessments and resiliency planning in response to extreme weather and climate-related hazards. The program would require significant involvement by the Select Board and other parts of the community.

MACC Annual Meeting

The March 3, 2018 MACC Conference in Worcester will be attended by John, Jack, and Judy. Reports on workshops attended will be given at the next Conservation Committee meeting.

Other Business

Judy reported on a conversation with Bob Thompson of Wild and Scenic Westfield River. Bob would like to see Plainfield included with a Wild and Scenic Westfield River designation. He is willing to come to a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the designation. Becoming part of Wild and Scenic Westfield River would enhance our ability to preserve and protect Plainfield's natural resources.

Jack brought a booklet titled *The Place You Call Home*, a Northern Woodlands publication. Jack and Judy recommended Northern Woodlands magazine.

Commissioners were mesmerized by a collection of small bones Jack laid out on the table. The delicate bones, lovingly removed from owl pellets by Jack, included those of shrews and mice. John told how he had found the crown jewel of his collection, an intact sample of extremely rare and prized beaver scat.

The Conservation Commission will conduct a site visit on the Guyette property at 4:00 P.M. on Monday, March 12.

The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, March 28, at 7:00 P.M. in Town Hall.

Adjournment

At 8:15 P.M. Erik moved, Jack seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle

