

## Plainfield Conservation Committee

### Minutes of the March 27, 2018 Regular Meeting

Present were: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Judy Williams (Chair) and guests representing the "Wild and Scenic Westfield River Committee," Prof. Bob Thompson, Westfield State University, and Chair of WSWRC and Jessica Nieves, intern.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

- I. The minutes of the Feb. 28, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.
- II. Prof. Thompson informed the commission of the opportunity to join ten other towns in enrolling town streams as part of the WSWR, a national wild and scenic river under the auspices of the National Park Service. This would require town approval and field inventory by the Committee of streams for water and habitat quality, as well as scenic and historic attributes. If approved by the Committee, the Park Service and the Governor, the designation would entail certain advantages. The town would be eligible for technical assistance from the National Park Service and the Mass. Dept. of Ecological Restoration, as well as funding for projects, such as culvert replacement. In addition, the designation could provide some immunity from disruptive projects, such as gas pipelines. PCC would be expected to earmark streams for consideration and to approach the Select Board to gain an impression of receptiveness. Judy will speak to the Select Board on the subject.
- III. John, Jack and Judy reported on the workshops they attended at the Annual Meeting of the MACC in March.
  - a. John described sessions on Culvert Replacements, Wildlife Habitat Assessment, and Stream Crossing Standards.
  - b. Jack described sessions on Identifying Woody Freshwater Wetland Plants and The Role of Conservation Commissions in Improving Climate Resilience.
  - c. Judy described sessions on Protecting Conservation Land Under Article 97, Aspects of the Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Authority, and Invasive Plant Control.
- IV. Town Tree Project Update: Judy met with Tree Warden, Winton Pitcoff and agreed upon having a town meeting on April 9 with an invited speaker, such as someone from the Conway School.
- V. Jack and Judy presented articles from the monthly Circuit Rider Newsletter on the importance of intact forests and a rapid field test for soil-borne crop pathogens.
- VI. Judy spoke about the "Bobolink Project" to protect the species by voluntarily delaying haying until after fledging. This may require paying a farmer with funds raised by the project sponsor.
- VII. New Business:

- a. There will be a Conference on the Emerald Ash Borer on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in Pittsfield.
- b. A forest cutting permit regarding a 30 acre parcel on west Main St. opposite the Williams home was received. Judy contacted Allison Wright because the permit has expired. The logging has not been accomplished.
- c. Eversource notified PCC regarding their "2018 Yearly Operational Plan," which can be accessed at [www.eversource.com](http://www.eversource.com), under "Municipal & State Officials > "Western Mass" > "Transmission Vegetation Management," >"2018 Yearly Operational Plan."
- d. Judy, and Erik met with Will Sloan Anderson, Franklin Land Trust, at the Guyette Preserve, and visited the bridge subject to an outstanding Order of Compliance and signed a Certificate of Compliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Nelson