

Approved 5/30/18

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held April 25, 2018**

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

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

Commissioners absent: John Burns, Jack Nelson

Will Anderson, Head Land Steward, Franklin Land Trust joined the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

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

Minutes of 3-28-18 were approved as presented.

Public Meeting, Franklin Land Trust RDA

Will Anderson was present for discussion of an RDA submitted by the Franklin Land Trust for work on property located at Gloyd and South Central. The work involves planting of native shrubs and forbs to encourage pollinators, provide diversity, and combat invasive species. Will brought maps of the areas to be planted and lists of the plants to be used. Individual plants, or plugs, will be used as well as clusters, which are groups of three plants protected by cages. Plants will be obtained from the New England Wetlands Plant Nursery in Amherst and from Nasami Farm in Whately, operated by the New England Wildflower Society. The work is planned for May, 2018. Will described a similar FLT project in Heath and a new project in Rowe.

Vote

Judy moved that the Commission issue a Negative Determination under #2: The work is within an area subject to protection under the Act but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter the area. Therefore, the filing of a Notice of Intent is not required.

Erik seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Judy, Erik, and Alice signed the Negative Determination.

Tree Meeting

Erik and Judy reported on the Tree Meeting held April 9 in Town Hall to address recent roadside cutting of trees and the need to have a plan for replanting and beautification of Plainfield. C.J. Lammers of the Conway School of Landscape Design gave a presentation and showed slides of their project in Deerfield. Judy said it was suggested that a tree planting/landscape project might be coordinated with the Wild and Scenic Westfield River designation. Another meeting to address tree planting and creation of a Plainfield beautification plan will be held April 30.

Wild and Scenic Westfield River Designation

Judy reported that she spoke to the Select Board and that they were very enthusiastic about the proposed WSWR designation. She will describe the designation at the Town Meeting May 5.

Logging on the James Paige Property

A resident expressed concern to Judy about logging being done on the Paige property on South Central. Judy read a letter from Service Forester Alison Wright describing the project and present conditions on the woodlot. Alison said there were no significant concerns related to the logging project.

Circuit Rider Newsletter Report

Judy reported on an article from Mark Stinson's Circuit Rider Newsletter, titled Astro-ecology: Saving Endangered Animals with Software for the Stars. The program uses astrophysical software and drones to capture imagery used to monitor rare and endangered species and prevent poaching.

Wetlands Forum

Commission reviewed a brochure describing the Mass DEP & MACC Forum to be held May 22 in the Lenox Town Hall.

Next Meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held Wednesday, May 30, 2018, in the Town Hall.

Adjourned, 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle