

*Approved as amended on 8-29-18*

**Plainfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting Held June 27, 2018**

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

Commissioners present: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (Chair)

Gary Rzab, resident at 330 Main Street, joined the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

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

**Minutes** John moved, Erik seconded, that the minutes of 2018-05-30 be approved as presented. Unanimous.

**Public Meeting for RDA Submitted by Judith Hanson & Pamela Wayne**

Commission discussed the RDA submitted for a project at 33 Stetson. There is an existing house on the property, with grass mowed to the edge of Crooked Pond. Proposed work involves construction of stone steps, retaining wall and patio. All work will be done by hand, no heavy equipment to be used.

A site visit to the property was made by Judy, Erik, Jack and Alice on 6-16-18.

Erik moved, Jack seconded, that the Commission issue a Negative Determination under #2: The work described in the Request is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent. All commissioners signed the Negative Determination.

**Solar Berm Revision, Union Street**

We have received a request from Kelley Fike, engineer with SVE associates, requesting approval of a change in the berm to be constructed at the foot of the north and south solar arrays. As previously approved, a natural debris/brush berm was to be constructed from slash generated by the project. The natural debris/brush berm would be covered with geotextile material which would have to be removed post-project. The requested change would involve chipping the slash, combining it with soil and stump grindings, and construction of an organic filter berm covered by a biodegradable, seeded mat which would not require removal. Kelley Fike states that the organic filter berm would perform better because of fewer voids in the berm and avoidance of disruption caused by removal of geotextile material.

Erik moved, Judy seconded that the Commission provisionally approve the berm revision, subject to a site visit to be conducted on Monday, July 2, at 3:00 P.M. (*Note: The time of the site visit was later changed to 4:00 P.M.*)

John described work he has observed on the site, and heavy equipment stored there. Work appears to have proceeded beyond phase 1. The Commission should have been notified for another site visit prior to commencement of work on phase 2.

### **Public Meeting for RDA Submitted by Gary Rzab & Janine Parker**

Gary Rzab was present for discussion of an RDA for vegetation management and removal of invasive species at 330 Main Street. Commission consulted a Mass GIS wetlands map for Plainfield on John's computer. The map shows wetland adjacent to a stream. Gary plans to use environmentally friendly methods to control vegetation; no heavy equipment or chemicals will be used. Small footpaths may be constructed which would be a minor activity not subject to the Act. Jack, Erik, Judy, and Alice made a site visit to the property on 6-16-18.

Erik moved, Jack seconded that we issue a Negative Determination under #2: The work described in the Request is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent. All commissioners signed the Negative Determination.

### **Forestry Memorandum of Understanding**

Commission reviewed the updated MOU between DEP and DCR regarding procedures and responsibilities of each agency under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Forest Cutting Practices Act. Typically, under an approved Forest Cutting Plan, a cutting project is considered an agricultural activity and therefore exempt from WPA regulations. The Conservation Commission is to be given an opportunity to comment. The commission felt we sometimes were not made aware of a cutting project in time to comment effectively. We want to inquire about the provision limiting time to submit comments to ten days and about the ability of the Conservation Commission to make a site visit to the cutting area.

Erik will ask Service Forester Alison Wright to attend the Conservation Commission meeting in August to review procedures and answer questions.

### **MACC Membership**

A bill for about \$200 was received for Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) membership for fiscal 2019. The fee is not based on number of members on the commission but on town demographics such as population and income.

There will be no meeting in July unless a special need arises.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 29, 2018, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall.

Jack moved, John seconded that we adjourn at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle