

Approved on February 27, 2019

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held January 30, 2019**

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

Commissioners present: Erik Burcroff, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (chair), John Burns joined the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Also present: Peter Lapointe, representing Sally Silberberg.

Call to Order, Judy Williams, 7:08 P.M.

RDA, 53 River Road

A quorum being present (Erik, Jack, Alice, Judy), we reviewed the RDA submitted by Sally Silberberg for an accessory structure to an existing sugar shed.

Judy, John and Jack did a site visit to the property on 1-26-19.

Peter Lapointe described the project, which includes construction of a stone wall for erosion control.

Erik moved, Jack seconded that the Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination under #5: The area is subject to protection under the Act and meets the requirements for an exemption as conversion of lawn to accessory uses. Unanimous in favor.

The Negative Determination was signed by Erik, Jack, Judy and Alice.

Jack pointed out that the 50-foot buffer cleared previously would be in violation if it were done today.

John Burns joined the meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Bylaws

Peter Lapointe said the ZBA is studying bylaw changes or additions. He suggested that the ConCom look at the ZBA Site Plan Review. Judy will put the review on the next meeting agenda. There followed a brief discussion of the need for local bylaws to aid in protection of natural resources. Jack had previously sent commissioners a copy of the Cheshire bylaws which include siting requirements for large scale solar.

Minutes of 1-10-19 were reviewed and amended to clarify the Positive (boundaries delineated are accurate) and Negative (work is not in area protected under the Act) Declarations issued for the Broom Street RDA. John moved, Judy seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. Unanimous in favor.

Certificate of Compliance, River Road

Judy reported that the COC for River Road issued at the 1-10-19 ConCom meeting has been recorded.

Continued Public Hearing, ANRAD, Solar Facility 66 North Union

This was a resumption of the hearing continued on 11-28-18. The Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) was submitted by Marvel Solar, LLC for Robert Pytko and Whitney Shepperd for a proposed solar facility on North Union. The property is forested and includes jurisdictional areas. Since the peer review has not yet been done, this hearing was continued to Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Hall.

Forest Cutting Plan, Guyette Property

Commission reviewed the Forest Cutting Plan and Service Forester Alison Wright's comments. Judy read a paper describing the Franklin Land Trust logging operation on the Guyette property. The logging operations are intended to create 17.5 acres of young forest habitat to benefit ruffed grouse, woodcock and other wildlife species. A portion of the timber harvested will be used in the restoration and reconstruction of the old barn's ell frame.

Judy read a letter from Melissa Patterson of Franklin Land Trust, describing the publicity steps taken to provide information on the logging program at the Guyette farm. An article will be published in the Plainfield Post. Information about the Guyette program and woodland management for wildlife habitat can be obtained at these websites:

http://www.franklinlandtrust.org/news/guyette_farm

<http://www.masswoodlands.org/projects/woodland-habitat-management>

Other Business

The annual MACC Conference will be held in Worcester on March 2, 2019. Keynote speaker is Gary Clayton, president of Mass Audubon.

Judy reported that the Baystate Roads program at UMass Amherst has a program on management of beaver-blocked culverts.

Erik reported that he attended the Lost Forests of New England program at the Hitchcock Center, Hampshire College. A film associated with the program may be available on YouTube. On Feb. 28 Mary Booth will present a program called Biomass at the Hitchcock Center.

Erik distributed copies of a Wendell State Forest Alliance fact sheet describing the capacity of trees, particularly older trees, to sequester carbon and the need to protect forests from management which results in loss of trees and increased vulnerability to climate change.

Judy moved, John seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 P.M. Unanimous. The next meeting, at which the continued 66 North Union ANRAD Public Hearing will be resumed, will be held in Town Hall on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Schertle.