

Approved 3-27-19

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held February 27, 2019**

Meeting was held in Town Hall.

Commissioners Present: Erik Burcroff, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (chair).

Commissioner John Burns was absent.

Minutes

Jack moved, Erik seconded that the minutes of January 30, 2019 be approved as read.

Unanimous in favor.

Site Visit

A site visit to the Nelson/Sargent property was set for Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. to inspect the burial site selected.

Continued Public Hearing, ANRAD, Solar Facility 66 North Union

This was a resumption of the hearing continued on January 30, 2019. The Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) was submitted by Marvel Solar, LLC for Robert Pytko and Whitney Sheppard for a proposed solar facility at 66 North Union. The property is forested and includes jurisdictional areas. The Wetland Delineation Report was submitted by Michael Newhouse of Kleinfelder for Marvel Solar. The Conservation Commission ordered a peer review to be conducted by VHB.

Judy Williams gave a status report on the peer review:

Under MCL c.44, section 53g, Marvel would be required to pay for the peer review, the money to be held in a special Town of Plainfield account.

On 2-13-19 VHB submitted a contract to perform the peer review for \$8,750 and asked Judy to sign. Judy declined to sign for the Commission until the agreement was verified and the money paid into the town account. She contacted Michael Newhouse and was told the VHB fee was far higher than commonly charged and Marvel would not pay it.

Judy contacted Emily Stockman and Mark Stinson to inquire about other peer reviewers. Both recommended Bill Lattrell.

Judy then contacted Bill Lattrell, who expressed interest in doing the review.

Judy contacted Michael Newhouse and gave him Bill Lattrell's contact information.

On 2-21-19 Michael Newhouse contacted Judy to ask that Bill Lattrell's contact information be sent to him again.

On 2-25-19 Bill Lattrell received the Wetland Delineation Report from Michael Newhouse. Bill notified Judy that he would submit a fee by the end of this week.

The peer review must be done, a site visit made, and other information obtained before the ANRAD can be decided.

This hearing was continued to Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 7:00 P.M. in Town Hall.

Municipal Vulnerability Plan

Jack showed a power point program featuring slides he made describing the MVP, a Massachusetts state plan. Some features of the MVP:

Identify vulnerabilities. Top hazards include severe winter weather, flooding, thunderstorms, wind, proliferation of invasive species due to climate change, extreme heat and cold.

Climate changes in the Northeast will include shorter, wetter winters, more thaws, more ice.

Average temperature is on a steady upward trend. Extreme temperature days over 90 degrees are increasing. Hurricanes in MA are more prevalent east of us but western MA gets the rainy aftermath and severe flooding.

We reviewed charts showing increased drought and wildfire risk.

Areas of concern include infrastructure such as broadband, electrical, roads and buildings.

Natural resources such as water, food, wood are at risk with extreme weather. Human and social vulnerabilities include an aging population, rural and isolated residences with difficult access and emergency shelter needs.

Plainfield has five dams. Crooked Pond Dam is listed by DCR as a “significant hazard dam” requiring an emergency action plan.

Solar Bylaw

Mark Stinson has suggested that Cheshire has a good bylaw. Jack sent a copy to Commissioners. Jack read a section of Plainfield’s ZBA Site Plan Review.

Judy reported that the Energy Committee has a grant and is looking into ways of using it for solar installations. A group called Resonant is actively putting panels on churches and public buildings. The Energy Committee intends to confer with them and members of the Conservation Commission are invited to attend the meeting on March 13, 2019 at the Town Hall.

Erik suggested that a large shed at the transfer station would provide a good roof for panels.

Selectman Howard Bronstein has asked Judy for information on culvert replacement. Judy will give him a booklet on Stream Crossing Standards and recommend several web sites.

Erik recommended a book titled Hemlock by David Foster. He reminded the Commission of a presentation by Mary Booth titled “Biomass” at the Hitchcock Center tomorrow night.

Judy and Jack will attend the MACC Annual Conference on March 2, 2019.

The next meeting, at which the 66 North Union ANRAD continued tonight will be resumed, will be held in Town Hall on March 27, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourned, 8:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Schertle