

Approved 5-29-19

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held May 8, 2019**

Meeting was held in Town Hall. Commissioners present: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judy Williams (Chair)

Also present:

Laurence Choquette, owner, 4 Stetson Ave.

James LeBeau, James LeBeau & Sons Foundation Replacement

Robert Pytko, Whitney Sheppard, owners, 66 North Union

Michael Newhouse, Kleinfelder, Inc.

William Lattrell, Lattrell Ecological Consulting

Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider, joined the meeting at 7:42 P.M.

Call to Order, Judy Williams, 7:10 P.M.

Minutes Erik moved, Jack seconded that the minutes of March 27, 2019 be approved as presented. Unanimous.

RDA, 4 Stetson Ave.

James LeBeau submitted the Request for Determination of Applicability for Applicants Charles and Laurence Choquette, owners of property at 4 Stetson Ave. Work involves replacing the existing foundation under a wood frame seasonal cottage and includes construction of 5 support piers. The property abuts Plainfield Pond and the work area is within the Buffer Zone of the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. An erosion barrier of silt fence and wattle will be constructed. The footprint of the existing building will not change. Judy, Jack, Erik and Alice, accompanied by Larry Choquette and James LeBeau, made a site visit to the property on 5-3-19.

John moved, Erik seconded that the commission issue a Negative Determination under #3: The work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone but will not alter an area subject to protection. Therefore said work does not require filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to Conditions. Motion passed unanimously. Conditions listed by the ConCom on the Determination address fill, removal, and seeding. All members of the ConCom signed the Determination. Because the building permit brought by James LeBeau is not one commonly used in Plainfield, Judy requested that a Plainfield building permit be obtained for ConCom sign-off.

Continuation of a Public Hearing for an ANRAD, 66 North Union

This was a resumption of a Public Hearing continued on 3-27-19 to consider an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for a proposed solar installation at 66 North Union on property owned by Robert Pytko and Whitney Sheppard.

Michael Newhouse, of Kleinfelder, Inc., presented a map and discussed changes made to reflect findings of the peer review done by Bill Lattrell on 4-25-19. Changes to extend protected area boundaries were made in approximately 18 areas, affecting wetlands B, C, and D. One additional change, extending wetland B, 38 a and b about 50 feet east, was made at the request of the Conservation Commission after a site visit made today (5-8-19) by Erik, John, Jack and Judy with Michael Newhouse.

Bill Lattrell, who conducted the peer review, said that MA Streamstats information confirmed the designation of the streams as intermittent rather than perennial. He expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he received from Michael Newhouse.

Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD):

The Commission confirmed the boundaries on the plans as modified by peer reviewer Bill Lattrell on 4-25-19 and by the Conservation Commission on 5-5-19 (corrected plans attached). John moved, Erik seconded that the Commission issue an Order of Resource Area Delineation under B 1 b Modified: The boundaries described on the plans, as modified by the Conservation Commission from the plans contained in the ANRAD, are accurately drawn from the following resource areas: Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Banks.

Motion passed unanimously. All Commissioners signed the ORAD.

Forest Cutting Plan

Judy read parts of a Forest Cutting Plan for property off of Vining Street.

Other Business

Judy, Jack, Erik and John made a site visit to Swift River today (5-8-19) and met with Charles Roberts, architect for a proposed construction project. Swift River representatives will file an RDA and come to our next meeting.

Judy read parts of a vegetation management plan from Eversource describing use of herbicides along their ROWs.

Mark Stinson arrived at 7:42 P.M. Judy gave Mark a copy of the 4 Stetson Ave. Determination and of the 66 North Union ORAD.

Mark recommended that we Google Streamstats Massachusetts to obtain Streamstats on line. A Streamstats designation of intermittent or perennial is based on average rainfall for the area and the size of the related watershed.

Mark told the Commission to be aware that in some instances Forest Cutting Plans have been used to evade WPA regs in order to cut a forest to prepare for a solar array later. Change of use, as from forest to solar, puts a project under the authority of the Conservation Commission.

Discussion followed on the need to protect wetlands in the state at the same time that alternative energy like solar is encouraged.

We also discussed possible hand pulling of invasive plants in Plainfield Pond and the use of pollinator mixes for seeding.

Jack brought American Scientist magazine with an article on insect extinctions
Jack brought a book titled “dirt—The Erosion of Civilizations” by David Montgomery.
Judy brought a magazine on recycling
Erik brought literature from the Wendell State Forest Alliance.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Hall.

Adjourned 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Schertle