

## Plainfield Conservation Commission

### Minutes of the Jan. 29, 2020 Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1835h. Present were commissioners Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson and Judy Williams.

I. **Approval of Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the Oct. 30, 2019 were read and unanimously approved.

II. **Local Wetlands regulations:**

Commissioners reviewed bylaws adopted by other towns. Judy provided copies of Great Barrington and Palmer's bylaws for study. Sheffield also has a bylaw to be reviewed. Local towns Ashfield, Buckland, and Chesterfield have none. The commission will begin work on a bylaw with the goal of readying it in time for the Town Meeting warrant. The Commission will gather for the purpose of drafting a bylaw (at Town Hall) at 0830 on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020.

III. **Forest Cutting Plans:**

Erik reviewed active forest cutting plans.

- a. The David Thiebault property (formerly Wayjascz) on West Main St.. Service Forester, Alison Wright-Hunter, disapproved the 14.34 acres FCP north of the Eversource power lines, because forester, Tom Brule's plan, failed to properly flag wetlands, ignored a stream crossing and provided for inadequate filter strips.
- b. The Alan Page property on the east side of South Main St. is subject to a new FCP approved on 7/1/19. Jack pointed out that the owner/logger has built two ramps onto the property, one of which is close to a stream from a culvert that crosses South Main St. He has alerted the Service Forester.
- c. There has been no activity re the Vining St. FCP as yet.

IV. **New Business:**

- a. Judy, Jack, and Erik will attend the annual MACC Conference on Feb. 29. Judy will increase the PCC 2021 budget request to \$700 in anticipation of increased expenses.
- b. Judy completed a draft of the annual 2019 Town Report, and commissioners reviewed and made a few corrections.
- c. PCC will revisit the issue of dam ownership and maintenance following questions raised at the Mitigation Preparedness Group ("MPG") this day. John will investigate the status of the Plainfield Pond dam, which is in doubtful condition, as well as the Crooked Pond, where there is a mechanical gate subject to unknown control.
- d. Erik reported that there will be a DCR "Forest Action Plan" open meeting for loggers, etc. Feb. 13, from 1000h to 1200h at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Judy mentioned the next presentation at 7 PM at the Safety Complex building on Feb.17 of the "Hilltowns Responding to the

Environmental Crisis” series: “Our Landscape and Climate Change” by  
Brittainy Laginhas, U. Mass.

The meeting was called adjourned at 2010h.