

**Plainfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting Held April 29, 2020**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's order of 3-12-20 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the order imposing limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting was held by remote participation with steps taken to enable the public to access the proceedings. This Google Hangouts meeting was initiated by Jack Nelson. Members present: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair).

**Call to Order**, Judith Williams, 6:44 p.m.

Jack moved, Erik seconded that the minutes of 3-4-20 be approved as presented. Unanimous in favor.

**RDA, 198 South Central**

The Request for Determination of Applicability was submitted by Jim LeBeau for Ben Gillette. Erik, Jack and Judy made a site visit to the property on 4-14-20. Project involves foundation work and replacement of a garage. A drainage stream 52 feet from the foundation flows eventually into Meadow Brook.

The Commission voted unanimously to issue a Negative Determination under #3 on WPA Form 2. The work described in the Request is within Buffer Zone as defined in the regulations but will not alter an area subject to protection under the WPA. An NOI is not required subject to the following conditions: Placement of a straw wattles erosion barrier. All work spoils to be removed off site.

Judy will leave the RDA form by her door to be signed by Commissioners.

**RDA, 15 Alden Lane**

Roxanne Finn has purchased the property. The Commission is revising a Determination made previously. Work involves construction on an existing footprint. There is a perennial stream on the property. Commission reviewed a map and after discussion voted unanimously to issue a Negative Determination under # 3 on WPA Form 2. The work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone as defined in the regulations but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. The work does not require filing of an NOI, subject to the following condition: There will be a consultation with the Conservation Commission on any disturbance of the area between the foundation and the river.

**Site Visit, Certificate of Compliance, Pleasant Street**

Erik, Jack, and Judy made a site visit to the property on 4-14-20. The property, on tax map 29, lot 5, will be acquired by Mass Wildlife. An Order of Conditions was issued on 1-5-09 for culvert work on the property. The DEP file number is 2640041. Janet Smith and Marilyn Ziobrowski made the request for a Certificate of Compliance. Erik moved, Jack seconded that the Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance, WPA Form 8B, confirming that the Order of Conditions on the culvert work was satisfied. Unanimous in favor.

Judy will leave the Certificate of Compliance form by her door to be signed by Commissioners.

### **Site visit, Bow Street**

At the request of Ron Meeks, Erik, Jack and Judy made a site visit on 4-14-20 to Bow Street property where a house will be constructed. Commissioners recommended that the house site be moved closer to the road, further from the wetland and that cutting be avoided between the construction area and the stream. An RDA will be filed.

### **Site Visit, 198 South Central**

Erik, Jack and Judy made a site visit on 4-14-20 to South Central property which is the subject of an RDA issued tonight (described above).

### **Site Visit, 10 Stetson**

Erik, Jack and Judy made a site visit on 4-14-20 to property at 10 Stetson where work will be done by Jim LeBeau for owner Larry Choquette. Work involves foundation work and construction on an existing house. An NOI will be filed.

### **Open Space Plan**

C.J. Lammers from the Conway School of Landscape Design has inquired about participation by a Plainfield advisory group to work with her on a Plainfield Open Space Plan. Students at the Conway School will design the Plan. C.J. wants to apply for a state grant and present the fact that Plainfield has much conservation land as a means of satisfying the grant requirement for town financial participation. She will seek state acknowledgement that conservation land serves as a valuable asset to the community and the state. Judy sent C.J. a copy of the Open Space Plan from 2007, which was never adopted by the town. Kimberly Longey has expressed her willingness to participate in an advisory group for the Open Space Project. Judy will write a letter in support of the project and the grant application, to be signed by the Conservation Commission. She will leave the letter by her door for Commissioners' signatures.

### **Eversource NOI**

Judy reported that Eversource will submit an NOI by May 12 for work on a transmission line involving structure replacement and access road improvement.

### **Bylaw**

Because of meeting restrictions and delays related to Covid-19, we will have to wait until a future Town Meeting, or call a special Town Meeting to present a local wetland bylaw for Plainfield. A draft bylaw has been prepared by Jack and Judy. Erik suggested we present our wetland bylaw recommendations to other committees such as ZBA, Agriculture and Planning. We will invite representatives from other committees to attend ConCom meetings to discuss the need for a local bylaw and to review our draft.

### **Next Meeting**

Because the Town Caucus has been set for Wed., May 27, the Conservation Commission will meet at 6:30 on Thursday, May 28. We hope a live meeting will be possible but if not a meeting will be scheduled for remote participation.

**Adjourned, 7:39 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

Alice Schertle