

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting Held June 24, 2020**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's order in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and 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 public access to the proceedings. This Google Meet was initiated by Jack Nelson.

Members present: Erik Burcroff, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair).

Also present: Joe Rogers representing GZA GeoEnvironmental for the Eversource NOI; Ronald Weeks, R&H Trucking, and Corrie Lock-Hardy, RDA applicant for 18 Bow Street.

**Call to Order**, 6:40 p.m., Judith Williams. Permission to record was granted by members. Jack moved, Erik seconded that the minutes of 5-28-20 be approved as amended. Unanimous.

**Continuation of a Public Hearing to Review a Notice of Intent for an Eversource Line 312 Structure Replacement and Construction of a Work Pad and Access Road**

This hearing was continued from the Public Hearing opened at the ConCom meeting of 5/28/20. There was a discussion of DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson's suggestions to seek a positive result in riverfront development. Joe Rogers described restoration efforts as intended to maintain existing conditions. He said an alternative such as planting trees would make ongoing maintenance impossible; they will be able to restore but not exceed existing conditions. Joe agreed to Erik's request that appropriate, pollinator-friendly shrubs be planted on the downhill slope. Jack suggested using species such as ninebark, dogwood, and blueberry. Joe said it was their intention to remove the gravel roads in riverfront. A discussion followed about whether it would be better to leave the roads; Joe said that would require NHESP approval. The amount of gravel likely to remain and how it would be managed was discussed. Judy read a letter from Everose Schluter, Assistant Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, stating that no work or site disturbance can take place on this project until the MESA permitting process is complete.

Erik asked if closing the hearing tonight would eliminate ConCom involvement in future proceedings arising from MESA permitting. Simon said he could not foresee any issue arising with MESA that would require ConCom involvement. Simon Hildt, representing Eversource, attempted to join the meeting but was unable to secure a Google Meet connection. Joe Rogers said Simon Hildt verified his agreement to plant shrubs.

The Conservation Commission decided to condition approval of the NOI as follows:

1. The apron where the roads meet will be cleaned at the conclusion of the project.
2. Appropriate pollinator-friendly shrubs will be planted downslope to the east of the structure.
3. A minimal amount of gravel will be left, estimated at 3,500 sq. ft. of gravel in the outer 100 ft.
4. Soil will be replaced and seeded over retained gravel.
5. The Conservation Commission will make periodic inspections of the work.
6. The Conservation Commission will be notified when the project is complete.

Erik moved and Judy seconded that the NOI be approved as conditioned and the Public Hearing be closed. Unanimously approved.

**Public Meeting to Review a Request for Determination of Applicability, 18 Bow Street**

Judy read the RDA project description. The RDA seeks a determination of whether the work on a proposed house site and the area of the work are subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. The property is recorded on assessor's map 16, lot 12. Judy, Erik, and Jack made a site visit to the property, which includes an intermittent stream and a wetland. Ron Weeks described conditions on the site and project plans. Jack showed maps of the property and photographs he took. There is a downslope to the intermittent stream; a stone wall acts as a berm or filter before the stream at the bottom of the downslope. There are no wetland plants on the downslope. The house site is just within the hundred foot buffer zone.

Erik moved, Judy seconded that the Commission issue a Negative Determination under #3: 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. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions:

1. Appropriate use of hay bales and silt fence to control runoff and protect the stream and wetland
2. There will be no further alteration or removal of vegetation on the slope.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be on held on Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held live or remotely as circumstances permit.

Erik moved, Alice seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:44 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle