

Approved 9-30-20

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held August 26, 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, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair). Also present: Joe Rogers, GZO Environmental; Kyle Dempsey, owner River Road map & lot 27-25; Judy Ferber, resident, 14 Union St.

Call to Order, Judy Williams, 6:32 p.m. Permission to record was granted by all present. Erik moved, Jack seconded that the minutes of 7-29-20 be approved as presented. Unanimous.

Wetland Replacement Plan, River Road, Lot 27-25

Joe Rogers of GZO, representing Kyle Dempsey, described the replacement plan submitted in response to the Enforcement Order issued by the Conservation Commission on 7-23-20. Judy called it an extremely thorough plan. There was discussion of the jurisdictional areas on the property and the measures to be taken for restoration and replacement of damaged wetlands. Erik noted a pit has been dug outside Riverfront and Joe confirmed that burying was a legal way to dispose of stumps. Jack pointed out that any logs to be removed should be done without use of equipment like skidders entering the wetland. Two storage sheds will be built in a previously cleared area, without permanent foundations. Erik said the sheds should be placed between the house and the road. A tent platform will be kept its present size.

Joe said rough grading work will be done asap, and straw wattle erosion controls installed as a first priority. The ConCom will be notified when the straw wattles are in and kept informed of work progress and site conditions. Joe wants the project done before November; he wants to get seedlings and plants in by mid-October to get established and settled. Kyle Dempsey said he wants to take part in planting. Joe said he would supervise the planting and that restoration will be done carefully and with professional guidance. John pointed out that annuals will have to be re-seeded in spring.

The two deadlines imposed by the Enforcement Order, for delineation of resource areas and submission of a replacement plan, were met by GZO.

Jack moved, Erik seconded that we accept the GZO Restoration Plan. Vote: unanimous in favor. Joe Rogers and Kyle Dempsey left the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Request for Determination of Applicability, Ute Stebich, 16 Summit St.

John Burns recused himself from consideration of this RDA as he represents Ute Stebich on the project. Work consists of enlarging an existing pond dug several years ago. There are no wetlands involved except those created by the existing pond. We examined a map of the

property, showing the pond and proposed enlargement area, provided by John. The digging as planned will be done by Shane Wolf using an excavator. No trees will be removed.

Judy moved we issue a Negative Determination under #1: The area described in the Request is not an area subject to protection under the Act or the Buffer Zone. Erik seconded. Unanimous vote in favor by participating members Erik, Jack, Judy and Alice.

Judy will hang the Determination on her door to be signed by members asap.

Forest Cutting Plans

Judy contacted Service Forester Alison Wright-Hunter in regard to a cutting plan for 33 acres owned by Thomas Kusek on Union and North Central. John Edwards is the forester. The property surrounds the already existing solar panel installation. The plan has not yet been approved by Alison. John Burns pointed out that the area is very wet.

Judy Ferber said she observed work taking place on the property; she spoke to forester John Edwards, who said he was harvesting timber. Erik will notify Alison that work has commenced.

Alison approved a cutting plan for 31 acres on West Main St., owned by Tristram Metcalf. John Edwards is the forester. The property has a high water table and will be harvested frozen or dry..

Alison approved a cutting plan for 21.2 acres on West Main St. owned by Susan LaRock. John Edwards is the forester. The property has a high water table and will be harvested frozen or dry.

Site Visits

On 8-17-20 Judy made a site visit to 24 South Union. Property owner Michael Madole intends to move a small shed closer to the road and had requested information about the new location. Judy confirmed the new location as preferable. A sign-off was not needed.

On 8-20-20 Judy made a site visit, at Ronnie Weeks's request, to property at 27 East Street, where a home will be built. There is no paper work yet from the building inspector.

New Business

Judy reported that a realtor specializing in solar development was hired by Robert Pytko in regard to property on North Union which was the subject of an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) hearing opened on 11-28-18 and of an Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD) issued on 5/8/19.

The Board of Selectmen has declared the town will not exercise its right of first refusal for lots 3 and 4 on Bow Street, where use is expected to change from recreational to residential.

Erik reported that a small metal bridge has been placed across a swale on property at the corner of Pleasant and South Central, where we approved the raising of a garage.

Commissioners thanked Jack for the article he put in the Plainfield Post explaining the importance of our wetlands and encouraging people to come to the Conservation Commission for help with projects that may involve wetland issues.

Commissioners welcomed Judy Ferber to the meeting and expressed their pleasure at hearing that she was considering membership. Judy said she is looking for an opportunity to serve the community and has a strong interest in and passion for the outdoors and for conservation. She said she would write the selectmen to request appointment to the Conservation Commission. Judy Williams immediately assigned homework: Obtain and read a copy of the DEP Regulations!

The next ConCom meeting will be held Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle