

*Approved 1-26-22*

**Plainfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting Held December 1, 2021**

Meeting was held in Town Hall. Commissioners present: Erik Burcroff, Judy Ferber, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair)

Also present: David Filkins, owner 13 Maple Street; Charles LaBatt, Andre-Anne Chenaille, Guntlow & Associates

Fire chief David Alvord joined the meeting at 7:45.

**Call to Order**, Judith Williams, 6:34 p.m.

Minutes of 10-27-21 were approved as amended.

**Continuation of Public Hearing for a Notice of Intent for Dam Repair, 13 Maple Street**

The hearing was continued from 10-27-21. The subject of the NOI is a proposed project to repair a dam washed out some time over the past decade. Commission discussed draft Conditions assembled by Judy Ferber. It was agreed that all work must take place in dry or frozen conditions and Commission and abutters must be notified one week prior to commencement of work. Erosion controls must be adequate to prevent erosion during 50 year storm conditions.

There was a lengthy discussion of the proposed installation of weir boards to provide flexibility in water level. Judy F. read DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson's email questioning inclusion of weir boards as unnecessary in an appropriately designed structure. Mark pointed out that the condition of the project area could not be observed from the public roadway and said that a requirement of further permitting before adjustment of water level would be unenforceable by a Commission. Charles LaBatt pointed out that pre-cast measurements can't be absolutely exact and that weir boards provide the flexibility to establish the final positioning of the structure during installation. He said the boards would allow temporary water level change for maintenance and repair and provide a means of responding to situations requiring water level adjustment due to destructive storms. He recommended the boards as a sound engineering solution but said he could provide a concrete structure without weir boards if requested by the commission.

Judith W. called for a vote on the use of weir boards in the dam. The Conservation Commission vote was three in favor of the use of weir boards, two opposed. The ConCom must be consulted before the water level is changed. The issue of whether an emergency permit can be issued for work on private property was discussed and will be clarified with Mark Stinson.

The Commission specified that the significant interest of the WPA is "protection of wildlife habitat." Judith W. called for a vote on approval of the NOI as conditioned. The Conservation Commission vote was four in favor of approval, one opposed. All commissioners signed the NOI as approved.

### **Public Hearing for a Notice of Intent from Plainfield Fire Dept. for Dry Hydrant at Plainfield Pond**

Prior to the meeting commissioners had reviewed the NOI submitted by Representative Ronald Weeks, R&H Trucking, for Applicant Plainfield Fire Department.

Fire Chief Dave Alvord joined the meeting at 7:45.

Judith read aloud the Plan for Dry Hydrant Installation at Plainfield Pond from the NOI. The plan describes the excavation and installation of the hydrant and steps taken to keep disturbance and site impact to a minimum. The location of the project is halfway between the beach and the boat launch. Jurisdictional areas impacted are land under water and bank.

Commission conditioned the project, requiring a turbidity curtain to control sediment and silt and silt fence for erosion control, both to be installed before and maintained during the project. The Commission specified that the significant interests of the WPA are “protection of wildlife habitat” and “fisheries.”

Judith W. called for a vote on approval of the NOI as conditioned. The Conservation Commission vote was unanimous in favor. All commissioners signed the NOI as approved. It was agreed that the issue of bundling such projects can be addressed in the future.

### **Discussion of Highway Dept.’s application for a grant for a beaver deceiver at a pond on private property at 98 West Hill Road**

Judith W. reported on a rejected plan to kill beavers on private property on West Hill where significant beaver damage and flooding has occurred in the past. The property owner denied permission to kill beavers on the property. A grant from MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) for installation of a beaver deceiver is available, but not sufficient to cover costs. The property owner agreed to finance the difference. Beavers grateful.

### **Grant St. Planned Cannabis Farm**

Judy F. reported on a site visit she and Jack made on 11-30-21 to the site of a 3-acre planned cannabis farm. They were accompanied by logger Jack Ryan of Lashway Lumber. The forested 3 acres were removed from a Forest Cutting Plan because of a change in use, moving the project to the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. There is a vernal pool on the property with flags marking the buffer zone. Commissioners measured and extended the buffer in some areas to the required 100 feet. The project includes clear-cut of trees but the buffer zone will be left intact. The choice of an area requiring de-forestation reflects an attempt to isolate possible odor. A security fence will be installed. Access will not cross any wetlands. Because work is outside the 100-ft. buffer zone the project is not in ConCom jurisdiction. No RDA is required.

The next meeting of the Con Com will take place on 1-26-22 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall. Schedule permitting, we will resume discussion of a local wetlands bylaw.

Adjourned, 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Schertle