

Approved 4/28/21

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held March 31, 2021**

This meeting was held by remote participation consistent with Governor Baker's temporary modifications of the Open Meeting Law, with steps taken to enable public access to the meeting. The Google Meet was initiated by Jack Nelson.

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

Present for 33 Stetson Ave. RDA: Judith Hanson, owner; Shelby Howland, builder.

Call to Order, Judith Williams, 6:36 p.m.

Minutes of 2-24-21 were approved.

Ad Hoc Committee Liaison

Erik agreed to be the ConCom liaison to the Ad Hoc Committee discussed at the Joint Boards meeting 3/29/21 and to work with CJ Lammers of the Conway School of Landscape Design to develop a Plainfield Climate Resiliency Plan. Judith W. will notify Peg Keller of Erik's position as liaison.

20 East St. Inquiry

Judith W. reported on a call from Danielle Wright who wants to install a pool at 20 East St. and was told by Building Inspector Gerry Garner to obtain a letter from the ConCom stating there are no wetland issues. It is not clear why the standard form would not be used instead of a letter. Erik and Judy F. volunteered to do a site visit and Judy F. will contact the Building Inspector to clarify the issue of the letter. John said if the property owner wants a paper document verifying there are no wetland issues the ConCom should advise her to hire a professional to help her submit an RDA or ANRAD. Jack pointed out that an RDA is not required for a minor activity. If there are no wetland issues the ConCom can sign off on the project.

Jack asked that we verify that the Building Inspector has the ConCom informational flyer we provided for distribution to those requesting a building permit.

Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), 33 Stetson Ave.

Property owner Judith Hanson and builder Shelby Howland described the project to build a 14' x 18' studio. Erik, Jack, Judy F., Alice and Judith W. made a site visit to the property on 3-21-21. The proposed structure, detached from the existing house, would be 70 feet from Hallockville Pond, in Buffer Zone. Some trees and shrubbery would be removed. Shelby said a small retaining wall will be built. The studio will be constructed of hemplime with wood framing support resulting in a negative carbon footprint. A gutter will be installed to control runoff from the wood shingle roof. Silt fence erosion and sedimentation control will be installed. Judy H. said alternatives were sought but no possible alternative site exists.

Judith W. moved and Erik seconded that the Commission issue a Negative Determination under #3: The work described is within Buffer Zone but will not alter an area subject to the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent (NOI) subject to the following conditions to prevent alteration of the resource area: installation of silt fencing for erosion and sedimentation control to be maintained during the entire duration of the project, replanting of appropriate vegetation in the disturbed area.

Vote: unanimous in favor.

Judith Hanson and Shelby Howland left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Alden Lane Inquiry

Judith W. reported on an email received from Roxanne Finn regarding her Alden Lane property. She would like to remove some brambles and grape vine near the river and to put in some plantings of pollinator and environmentally friendly species. Erik pointed out that it is important that she avoid disturbance of the soil. John said we should describe to her the limitations of what can be done in riverfront and that we could recommend professional help for the project. Erik, Jack and Judy will do a site visit to the property.

Next Meeting will take place on April 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

We will discuss our reading of the MACC Buffer Zone Guidebook 2.0, 4.0, 5.0 and Appendix F. We will also review the corrected draft of the Plainfield Wetland Bylaw incorporating Mark's suggestions.

John pointed out that we need to educate the community about the necessity for a bylaw and that we need a summary of the bylaw to present to the Joint Boards.

Adjourned, 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle