

Approved 10-27-21

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held August 25, 2021

The meeting was held in Town Hall. Members present: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Judy Ferber, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair).

Also present: Walter Jennings, Highway Department Superintendent
Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider

Call to Order, Judith Williams, 6:26 p.m.

Jack moved, John seconded, approval of the 8-4-21 minutes as amended.

Meeting With Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings and DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson

Walter said he received and reviewed the Plainfield Culvert Study. Mark said the study was excellent though not as detailed as might be necessary and that he will be glad to inspect culverts with the Commission as he has done in the past. Judith pointed out that stream crossing requirements such as providing for wildlife passage make culverts much more than just directing water under a road.

Walter described difficulties in repairing washout damage on West Hill Road. Huge accumulations of water behind a beaver damn swept over the road causing culvert failure and road washout. He said grants usually require hiring a consultant unless repeated damage has occurred, as on West Hill.

Mark explained emergency work procedures, which require coordination with the ConCom. If necessary in an emergency the work can be done first, then the Commission is informed and issues an emergency permit for the work as described.

Erik asked about the area on 116 where the roadbed is saturated due to beaver activity. Walter said he has inspected the area but has not had time to review possible mitigation procedures.

We discussed driveway applications and shared driveways. If a planned driveway will cross a stream or wetland the ConCom must be consulted.

Walter described the new Volvo Mini-Excavator and the use in new equipment of oil which is less environmentally damaging than oil used in the past.

We discussed the dry hydrant project on Plainfield Pond between the beach and the boat ramp, and whether a dry hydrant was the easiest and most cost-effective solution. Erik said he inspected the area and couldn't find a catch basin anywhere. We will review a Notice of Intent (NOI) on the dry hydrant project at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Walter said on Sept. 13 Palmer Paving will start repaving 116. He said he can meet with the ConCom prior to that if necessary. Mark said catch basins along 116 between the farm and the transfer station have been filled in and he felt that would result in flooding during torrential rain. Walter described the project as adjusting the road to fit existing structures. The road level will be raised and water directed to vegetated ditches, or swales, re-established along the roadway. Mark said the work would not be exempt and would require a Request for Determination of

Applicability (RDA) for areas where swales would be re-created. Walter described the 116 paving project as a two-week process and said traffic will probably not be re-routed. Mark described a Bundle Notice of Intent which would cover all routine maintenance over time and might be useful to work on over the winter to prepare for spring. Mark will send the information to Walter.

Walter Jennings left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Emergency Certification for Repair to Fire Hydrant on Highway Garage Pond

Dave Alvord has reported that the hydrant at the pond across from the Highway Dept. Garage has failed and they are looking for a diver to do the required work. We will ask for further clarification of the scope of the work.

Judith moved, Erik seconded, that we issue an Emergency Permit when necessary for performance of the work. Unanimous in favor.

Other Business

Erik made a site visit to 203 West Street, where a garage will be built. There were no wetland issues.

Judith reported on a visit to 27 East Street, where she has done a site visit in the past. No wetland issues.

The ConCom will meet Wednesday, Sept 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall to review Jack's draft local wetland bylaw slide presentation.

The next regularly scheduled ConCom meeting is on Wednesday Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall. We will present Jack's slide presentation of the draft wetland bylaw to representatives from various town boards.

Adjourned, 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle