

*Approved as amended 2-23-22*

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting Held January 26, 2022**

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

Also present: Joe Rogers, GZO GeoEnvironmental; Walter Jennings, Highway Superintendent; Mark Stinson

**Call to Order**, Judith Williams, 6:38 p.m.

Minutes of 12-1-21 were approved as presented.

**Discussion of Comments Regarding Proposed Plainfield Bylaw**

Jack reported that he has communicated with a resident who had expressed concerns about some elements of the proposed bylaw. Jack provided written explanations and fuller descriptions of sections of the bylaw and the reasons increased protections are necessary. He will continue communication, providing additional clarification as necessary.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance for Eversource Energy Line 312**

Commissioners had received copies of the Request for Certificate of Compliance prior to the meeting. Joe Rogers reported on the completion of the project on Line 312 between Summit St. and West Main St., within the Mill Brook Riverfront Area, and measures taken to comply with the Order of Conditions. He said they have achieved 95% restoration of vegetation in affected areas. Work area has been left clean as requested. Commissioners thanked Joe for the clarity and thoroughness of the Request document. Erik moved that the Commission approve the Request for Certificate of Compliance. Judith seconded. Vote was unanimous in favor. All commissioners signed the Certificate of Compliance. Joe Rogers left the meeting at 7:05.

**Highway Superintendent's Discussion of Grant for Repair of Culvert on 116 damaged by Beavers.**

Highway Superintendent Walter Jennings reported on his research into obtaining a grant for required work on 116. He found that Plainfield does not qualify for a grant as it has insufficient population and lacks the required green space area. Walter has inspected the flooded area on 116 and sees a major problem requiring an engineer. Water on the north and south side of 116 is pushing into the road. Increased truck traffic on 116 creates more pressure, furthering the danger of road collapse. Outflow pipes are completely buried on both sides. Walter has not determined where the water ultimately drains. Commissioners felt drainage would be toward Hawley. Mark said he has seen similar problems solved with a pipe installed under the road. Walter said we would have to take out a section of the road to install a box culvert. Judith pointed out that stream crossing standards would have to be followed, such as accommodating passage of wildlife. Such a project would be major, and very expensive.

Mark pointed out that an emergency permit, if obtained, would remain in effect for only 30 days. A long-term project such as this would require a Notice of Intent.

When Walter contacted Mass DOT he was told to consult the Conservation Commission before proceeding with inquiries to DOT. Judith will provide Walter with a letter to DOT from the Conservation Commission stressing the Commission's opinion that the condition on 116 is a major concern requiring DOT involvement.

Walter will contact Dave Stokes, District 1 State Aid Representative for DOT, and ask him to inspect the flooded area. Judith said if DOT sends an engineer to Plainfield to make an inspection and give a report we would like the ConCom to be present.

Walter reported that a grant has been obtained to install a beaver deceiver on West Hill Road. The property owner has agreed to pay the amount not covered by the grant. Walter Jennings left the meeting at 7:30.

### **Inquiries Regarding Property at 57 Summit Street**

Judith reported on a phone call from the realtor who has listed the property. Her listing description of the property as having no issues according to past ConCom findings is inaccurate. She agreed to amend the listing. There is wetland on the property but a building could be constructed if far enough away from the wetland. Jack will follow up with the realtor to ask that the words "non-jurisdictional" be deleted from the listing.

### **ConCom 2021 Annual Report**

Commissioners reviewed Judith's extensive draft of the annual report. A few additions and corrections were offered and Judith was thanked for a very thorough report.

### **Notice from Eversource of Boring Program for Lines 1231, 1242**

Judith reported on a notice from Jonathan Roberge of Eversource describing the replacement of 38 structures in Plainfield, 2 of which will require boring in jurisdictional areas. Under the WPA, this maintenance work can be done without filing a Notice of Intent.

### **Plainfield Climate Resiliency Plan Core Team Report**

Erik reported that the Core Team from the joint boards met with 3 students from the Conway School. The Core Team includes representatives from Planning, Agriculture, Zoning, Energy and Conservation. Conway students will prepare a project plan incorporating information provided by the Core Team. Erik described the ConCom proposed wetland bylaw and it was felt that the two efforts could go forward together. At the next ConCom meeting Erik will fill us in on details of the program.

Judith will inquire with the town Treasurer about the filing fee account. We discussed payment of MACC registration fees.

Next scheduled ConCom meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m., in Town Hall.

**Adjourned**, 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Schertle