

Approved 9/28/22

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held August 3, 2022**

Meeting was held in Town Hall. Commissioners present: Erik Burcroff, John Burns, Jack Nelson, Alice Schertle, Judith Williams (chair). Also present: Shelby Howland, Village Carpentry, representative for 27 S. Union NOI Elaine Sidney, owner, 27 S. Union Mark Stinson, Plainfield resident

Call to Order, Judith Williams, 6:35 p.m.

Minutes of 6/29/22 approved as amended

Continuation of Public Hearing for Notice of Intent (NOI), 27 S. Union

Shelby Howland of Village Carpentry, who submitted the NOI, was present for the continued Hearing, as was property owner Elaine Sidney. Commission found that while the NOI now included some of the additional information requested it was still not complete. Further clarification of the exact work planned and the area impacted will be required. A USGS map must be submitted; commission described the required map and how to obtain it on line. In addition more specific and detailed descriptions of the site and of the proposed work are needed. Mark Stinson offered clarifications of WPA regulations based on his extensive experience. He felt there are two projects proposed, one involving 900 feet of bank and another involving repair of two culverts. Each project would require submission of an NOI unless the impact is minimal and repair minor. Mark suggested checking performance standards for bank and also checking requirements for a limited project. A limited project must comply with performance standards to the maximum extent possible.

Mark showed aerial photographs from 2005 and 2021 which seem to show past disturbance had occurred in wetland areas. There was a discussion as to whether previous work, including barn construction and culvert work had been permitted. Shelby said the two culverts by the house, both pre-1983, were in need of repair; at least one is undersized.

Mark described the proposed work as permissible and said it will go much faster and easier with the help of a professional consultant. The Commission recommended that a wetland consultant be hired to review the project and delineate the wetland area.

In view of the fact that the NOI as submitted contains insufficient information, the Public Hearing to consider the NOI was continued to Wednesday, August 31, at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

Shelby Howland and Elaine Sidney left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), and Site Visit, 678 W. Main St.

The RDA was submitted by Rob Potter for Amy Siegel and Brett Leav. Erik, Jack, John and Judith made a site visit to the property on 7/20/22. Work involves replacing a dock of the same size on the same site. Erik said he gave Rob two suggestions: 1) simply turn the boards over because the frame is solid, and 2) keep any pressure treated dust away from the water with tarps.

John moved, Erik seconded, that the Commission make a Negative Determination under #2: The work described in the Request is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area. Therefore, the work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent. Vote: unanimous in favor. All Commissioners present signed the Determination.

7 Bow Street Notice to Vacate and Enforcement Order

On 7/28/22 the Conservation Commission sent a letter to Building Commissioner Charlene Biardi in support of her Request to Vacate Building at 7 Bow Street. Judith read the letter aloud. The barn on the property is being occupied as a residence without multiple required permits or a Certificate of Occupancy. The Conservation Commission letter to Charlene Biardi described Jack Nelson's visit to the property on May 9, during which he informed Greg Miller, Trustee of the Christian Faith Ministries, owner of the property, that his activity in a jurisdictional area is in violation of the Wetlands Protection Act. At the May 12 meeting of the Conservation Commission the Commission issued an Enforcement Order requiring Mr. Miller to attend a meeting of the Commission and to provide a restoration plan. Mr. Miller did not comply with the requirements of the Enforcement Order and remains in violation.

The Board of Health has sent to Charlene Bairdi a similar letter in support of the Building Commissioner's Request to Vacate Building.

Discussion of Plainfield Pond

Residents have expressed concern over the diminished level of Plainfield Pond and the amount of pond weed growing in it. Judith consulted Ed Stockman who said the pond weed is a native plant that will disappear in a few weeks. Ed suggested a public presentation from an expert. Judith said she hopes to plan our next meeting to include such a public presentation for residents. It was pointed out that the owner of the dam on Plainfield Pond is the DCR. The condition of the dam is difficult to assess as there is a beaver dam on top of it.

New Business

Erik shared a copy of the impressive booklet created by students at the Conway School, entitled *A Climate Resilience Plan for Plainfield MA*. There are two copies of the booklet at Town Hall and it is available on the town website.

Mark announced that at the request of Rowe and Charlemont he'll do a wetlands act workshop at Hawlemont School in Charlemont. He will send out a notice when the date is decided.

Jack shared an article from Ashfield News regarding a biomass energy project planned by Roberts Lumber with a US Agricultural Dept. grant.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will take place on Wednesday, August 31, at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall and will continue the Public Hearing for the 27 S. Union NOI.

Adjourned, 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle