

Approved as amended 12-14-23

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held November 29, 2023**

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

Call to Order, Judith Williams, 6:42 p.m. Minutes of 9-27-23 approved as amended.

116 Emergency Permit

Ed Stockman reported that he intends to appeal the response to the Conservation Commission Emergency Permit issued due to the flooding and closure of 116 on July 4 weekend. Ed said the ConCom wrote and issued the Emergency Permit correctly but he feels that it was not followed. He said water level in the pond should have been restored to a level specified in the permit and that a stand pipe should be installed to raise the level. He has been in contact with Michael McHugh, head of DEP in Springfield in regard to the procedure for appealing an Emergency Permit. Discussion followed concerning the original level of the pond when the road was constructed and questions about the ability of the road to withstand pressure from the pond.

Certificate of Compliance, Elaine Sidney

On a site visit 11-5-23 Judy W. and Alice walked the property at 27 S. Union with Elaine Sidney, finding that all work required by the Order of Conditions has been satisfactorily completed. The Certificate of Compliance was signed tonight by all commissioners present.

Site Visits, Lower Liberty and Summit

On 10-30-23 Judy W., Jack, and Emily Stockman made a site visit to Lower Liberty where property owners intend to build a residence, studio and driveway. Project will require the removal of many trees but is laid out to avoid Mill Brook and jurisdictional areas.

A site visit was made on 10-30-23 by Judy W. and Jack to property on Summit near Bluff. The owner has asked whether an existing permit is still valid. No obvious alterations were seen.

Climate Resiliency—Jack Nelson

Jack distributed copies of his 5-page summary of the Plainfield Climate Resiliency Plans, summarizing the findings and recommendations from the *Municipal Vulnerability Program Report* (2019), *Hazard Mitigation Plan* (2019) and the *Climate Resilience Plan for Plainfield* (2022) authored by the Conway School. Jack has put the three complete plans as well as the 2020 culvert evaluation commissioned by Howard Bronstein on the town website. His summary of the three plans, concise and readable, will be very helpful in determining what recommendations should be moved forward and identifying how they may be funded. Town expertise will be tapped to research available grants.

Bow Street

On 11-20-23, in answer to instruction by the Court, Jack and Judy W. accompanied Ellen Dupont, Charlene Baiardi, and Officer Thibault to the Bow Street property where Mr. Miller, expressing his objection, allowed them entrance. They found many violations under building, health and wetland regulations. The inspection and violations observed will be reported to the Court. The Court had said it would impose a \$100 daily fine for failure to obey the order to allow inspection by town building, health and conservation representatives. As ongoing violations have

been found, the Commission discussed whether the town should impose fines in response to continuing failure to comply.

New Business

Jack said that he would like to arrange a ConCom site visit to his property, perhaps in spring, to document what's there, including important areas such as wetland, forest and habitat.

Adjourned, 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle