

Approved 3-29-23

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting Held February 22, 2023**

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

Also present in Town Hall: Larry Choquette, owner, 4 Stetson Ave.

Also present on line: Michael Wall, engineer for 4 Stetson Ave. project.

Roxanne Finn, owner, 12 Alden Lane.

Call to Order, Jack Nelson, 6:33 p.m.

Jack moved that we address the RDAs first on the agenda. Erik seconded. Unanimous.

RDA Larry Choquette, 4 Stetson Avenue

Project involves installation of a new septic system. A site visit was made on 2-19-23 by John, Erik, Jack, Judy F. The limit of work extends 40 ft. into the buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland and involves 25 ft. of tree removal. ConCom requested that the limit of work be clearly delineated. Trees to be cut should be marked. Where trees are removed stumps will be allowed to remain. To protect BVW silt fence and hay bales should be installed as well as slash downgrade, outside the limit of work. ConCom will be notified when permit from Board of Health is obtained and work will commence. Planting of shrubs after work is done may be necessary.

Alice moved and Erik seconded that the Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination with conditions, under #3 on WPA Form 2: The work described in the Request is within Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing on a Notice of Intent, subject to conditions. Vote: unanimous in favor. Commissioners signed the Determination.

RDA, Roxanne Finn, 12 Alden Lane

Project involves the construction of a house in Riverfront, grandfathered on the existing footprint of a house which was razed. Roxanne described the project. A new foundation will be poured and a decision made as to construction of slab or cellar and how to deal with an existing cellar of dirt and fieldstone. An area with a retaining wall may be used to create a storage area for vehicles and equipment. ConCom conditions include erosion control outside of the footprint and use of a wattle fence. Spoils such as dirt, stone and brick that are removed will remain on the property. ConCom will be notified when work will commence and will be allowed to observe progress. Judith W. complimented Roxanne for her attention to environmental concerns and active participation in the work.

Judy F. moved and John seconded that the Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination with conditions, under #3 on WPA Form 2, substituting the words "Riverfront Area" for the words "Buffer Zone": The work described in the Request is within Riverfront Area as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to conditions. Vote: unanimous in favor. Commissioners signed the Determination.

Discussion of Spring on Rice Family Foundation Property

Jack reported on a call from Anna Hathaway in regard to a spring built by her grandfather on a one-acre remnant of the Rice Farm. The spring drains south into a wetland and the parcel is land-bound, with no direct access by road. Anna would like to see the spring protected and preserved in some way. The ConCom will notify the Historical Society and plan a site visit to the property.

New Business

The minutes of the meeting of 10-26-22 were officially approved. There was no meeting in Nov. or Dec. of 2022.

Judith W. recommended mass.gov/biomap as a site with a wealth of information including but going far beyond assessors' information.

Judy F. reported on the meeting of Friends of Plainfield Pond with Jim Straub. DCR has a matching grant of up to \$25,000 which might be used to help address issues such as possible invasives in the pond, questions of inflow and outflow, dam repair, and creation of an ongoing management plan. DCR has many larger projects monopolizing their attention and we need to be a squeaky wheel to be noticed. Some of the ARPA \$57,000 being addressed by One Plainfield could be used for pond projects. Judy F. reported that she walked out to see the dam and observed much water running through it and repair badly needed.

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will take place in the Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Adjourned, 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Schertle