

Agriculture and Trees Focus Group

Agricultural Commission, Plainfield Tree Alliance, Tree Warden, Right to Farm Committee, and others

Agenda:

Introductions: introduction to the Conway student team, the Climate Resilience Plan project, and participants

Discussion/framing activity: participants answer questions that will guide a brief opening discussion

HMP/MVP Review: group discussion of responses Review of HMP and MVP action items (attached); discussion of progress, priorities, challenges, etc. (Review table below).

Agriculture Discussion: Framing questions may be used to guide conversation; general open dialogue about topics including: state of farming in Plainfield (any changes observed), farming practices, access to support/supply, food distribution, etc.

Tree Discussion: Framing questions may be used to guide conversation; general open dialogue about topics including: street trees, forest management, land owner incentives/programs, species threats, regional context.

Wrap up

Task	Action	Plan	Identified Leads
1. Quantify values that our region's forests contribute (carbon sequestration, clean air, etc.); Conduct public outreach and education about the services provided by healthy forests; Plan for smart growth to preserve forests; Provide incentives and \$ for Town; Improve compliance with Ch. 61 forest management plans	Research, Public Education, Community Engagement, Conservation, Forest Management	MVP	Local forester, DCR
2. Access state resources to broaden awareness of changing/shifting ecology and invasive species; Increase forest management to reduce risk of wildfire; Hold a stakeholder-driven discussion or forum on forest conservation and management; Communicate with land owners to encourage forest fire management best practices on large conservation properties	Public Education, Community Engagement, Forest Management	MVP	Conservation Commission, Mass Audubon, DCR
3. Work with Mass Audubon to create or review a forest management plan for 1,527 acres (West Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary). Incorporate strategies to deal with future conditions presented by climate change, as well as strategies to improve public access, parking areas, and trail signage.	Conservation & Land Management	HMP	Conservation Commission, Mass Audubon, Tree warden , Select Board, Planning Board, Fire Department

<p>4. Create tree bylaw to encourage private landowners to plant certain things along roadway frontage – see PVPC’s model bylaw. Consider requiring vegetative buffers for all new development or redevelopment, and investigate policy structures to encourage agricultural landowners with significant roadway frontage to install living snow fences to reduce snow drifts and improve habitat availability for pollinator species.</p>	<p>Local Plans and Regulations</p>	<p>HMP</p>	<p>Tree Alliance, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Highway Superintendent</p>
<p>5. Support healthy forests by educating residents about ecosystem services and the costs of development to the Town; plan for smart growth and open space preservation; develop strategies for recognizing and monetizing the ecosystem services provided by Plainfield’s open spaces, including the benefits of clean water, clean air, carbon sequestration, and healthy habitat</p>		<p>MVP</p>	
<p>6. Conduct preventative maintenance and other measures to reduce power outages, including tree trimming, installing home and public generators, and creating a wood bank</p>		<p>MVP</p>	
<p>7. Educate residents on food production and preservation practices; Encourage use of regenerative farming practices</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>MVP</p>	<p>Ag. Commission</p>
<p>8. Improve Emergency Food Supply - Start a donation center for canned goods to increase reserves of food for emergencies - Be open to development of local food production to increase self-sustainability during a major supply chain disruption</p>	<p>Emergency Management</p>	<p>MVP</p>	
<p>9. Conduct an education campaign or hold a community gathering to talk about hobby and small scale farming practices and their impacts on surface and sub-surface water quality</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>MVP</p>	
<p>10. Create a Community Animal Disaster Plan or Emergency Animal Shelter Plan for pets and livestock</p>		<p>MVP</p>	