

Plainfield Conservation Commission

June 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Present were John Burns, Erik Burcroff, Judy Ferber, Jack Nelson and Judy Williams, Chairperson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

- I. Minutes of the May 29, 2024 meeting were reviewed, and the 57 Summit Street query by potential buyer, Jacob Mueller, was questioned regarding an informal agreement about adhering to the established buffer zone delineation. It was decided to approve the minutes unanimously, with the understanding that, should he apply for a building permit, it would be an opportunity to specify conditions on the sign off sheet.
- II. Public Meeting for an RDA submitted by Kurt Thiebault regarding an irrigation project involving 2 irrigation ponds for his East Main St. farm. There was general discussion regarding the definition of "Land in Agricultural Use" and the importance of minimizing disturbances to Resource Areas. In the Determination of Applicability, the Commission voted for a negative determination under category 3: the area is within the Buffer Zone, but will not alter the area subject to the Act. No NOI will be required with the following conditions:
 - a. Maintain an area undisturbed 100' around Meadow Brook south of the bridge and 50' on the intermittent stream south of the pond to the north of East Main St.
 - b. Minimize the impact of the input and outlet pipes on the ecological functioning of the system.
 - c. Reminder that, if a period of inactivity exceeds 5 years, to renew the permit application, in order to qualify for an agricultural exemption.
- III. Discussion of Potential Invasive Milfoil in Crooked Pond: Steven Bzomski, land owner on the pond, reported what he thought was a heavy growth of Milfoil. Judy F. learned from the Plainfield Pond Committee consultant, Wendy Gendron, that she found no Milfoil in either Crooked or Plainfield Ponds in her 2022 surveys. A photo of the plant provided by Mr. Bzomski indicated that it was Bladder Wort, a native species. There was some discussion about controlling the growth, ruling out Grass Carp, which is illegal in MA.
- IV. Forest Cutting Plans: The Mauer, South Central St., and Silberberg, on River Rd., FCP's were reviewed.
- V. New Business:
 - a. MACC annual dues increase to \$270. Judy W. learned that the fee is based on population size.
 - b. The "Village Green" project: there was a brief discussion of the report from engineer consultant, Bucky Sparkle, regarding the Planning Commission presentation on May 8, 2024, which will involve closing North Union St. in order to create more parking spaces.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Nelson