

Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes  
January 18, 2022

Present: Becky Atchinson, Rose Paul and Julie Hackbarth  
Meeting via Zoom.

**Minutes:** The November 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

**Posting minutes on the town website:** PDF's of draft and approved Conservation Commission minutes will now be emailed to Bob Fancher. Bob was recently appointed by the Selectboard to manage the Town of Plainfield Website.

**Guest speaker for March meeting:** Rose plans to invite Brian Voight to our March meeting. Brian is a Clean Water Service Provider, housed at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. The CWSPs, pass through state Clean Water grant funds for projects. The Commission is interested in learning about the grant program and what his role is.

**Tree sale planning update:** Planning for the 25th annual shrub and tree sale is well underway, coordinated this year by the Cabot Conservation Commission. The order deadline is March 10, 2023. Pick up will take place at the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield on April 30, 2023, 9 to 11 am. Online ordering is being offered this year.

**Green Up Day:** Becky provided an update on planning for Green Up Day, which will take place on May 6, 2023. The format for the day will be similar to previous years. Becky would like someone from the community to step forward and work as a co-coordinator for the event and learn the event coordination details needed to run the event in future years.

**Remote vs. in person meetings:** The question was raised as to whether the legislative COVID allowance for conducting town business remotely rather than in person will end in the near future. The group discussed the pros and cons of meeting remotely versus in-person. Even if in-person meetings are required and it may be preferable to get together in person, members would like to continue to have the option to make the decision to meet remotely via zoom. Members like having evening meetings via ZOOM during the dark winter months and in bad weather. Also, it is great for members and guests to participate without having to drive to a central location or when away from home.

**Attracting New Members:** The group discussed the limitations of a small number of members to manage ongoing responsibilities as well as taking on new projects. Discussion about ways to attract new members will continue at the March meeting.

**Vermont Invasive Management Day Proposal:** The group approved a motion to prepare a letter of support urging the Legislature to designate an Invasive Species Management Day in Vermont, as proposed by Mr. Bernie Paquette of Jericho. Rose will prepare the letter.

**Town Forest Access:** Over the past few years the Commission has focused on finding funding to repair a section of Gonyeau Road in order to improve road access to the Town forest from the Gonyeau Road trailhead. The Commission has been unable to obtain support from the Selectboard to make repairs to the road and has not been able to identify any applicable state grant programs to pursue. Because of this, the Commission discussed and decided to focus on

Town Forest access improvements from the Maxfield Road trailhead for the time being. A site visit may occur in April to see what needs to be done to the trail from the Maxfield Road Trailhead.

Adjourn at 8:50

**NOTE: February Monthly Meeting is canceled**

**Next Meeting:** March 15, 2023, 7 PM Via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Hackbarth