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March 18, 2026

Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes

Present: Rose Paul, Becky Atchinson, Julie Hackbarth, Mary Trerice, Mead Binhammer

Minutes: February minutes were approved as written. (Julie and Mead abstaining as they were not present)

Dues and subscriptions: Rose reported that the AVCC dues were paid and that the Zoom subscription for the year will be paid in April. Mead noted that AVCC will be presenting a series of webinars re: Town Forests and he'll be sure we are notified.

Dark Sky Movie: The movie, *Defending the Dark*, with discussion is set for April 14 at Town Hall and is being co-presented with the Cutler Library. Angela has been collecting reading material at the library and will publicize in the library newsletter and at the library. Rose will post to Front Porch Forum and find someone to post in Marshfield. Mary will post to Plainfield People.

National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation: Mary reported on the recent meeting headed by Stephanie Stroud of NPS. Because of the stalled FEMA buy-out program NPS can only gather information and give broad ideas of possibilities. When more is known they will refine the ideas and help the Town with public engagement on what to do with the open land. At the meeting Michael Billingsley was able to update information regarding the dam removal and possible changes to Great Brook flood plains, Karl Bissex had updates on the Mill St and Bridge 21 bridge replacements which are now under contract with work possibly starting late summer. Also, the engineers for a long segment of Brook Rd were newly contracted to study replacing in the current ROW, do nothing, or re-align part of the road to avoid the brook. This to be completed by late fall. There will be a public information meeting in April. NPS also reached out to the Recreation Committee and the Resilience Hub. VCRD, who lead the Plainfield Forward process remains involved.

We also spent some time looking at the Planning for Resilience study done by the U. Penn. Master of City Planning-Climate Resiliency grad program. The next meeting will be Wed. April 1, 10 a.m.

Farmland Conservation: Mead presented information about a project that is underway and submitted the following paragraph to summarize our conversation:

The Andrews A Conservation Project will conserve a 15 acre parcel of land on the south end of Country Club Road in Plainfield, facilitating a transfer of the land from Beth Mueller and Philip

Moros to Amanda Andrews of Tamarack Hollow Farm. Tamarack Hollow Farm is a small, successful wholesale organic vegetable grower selling vegetables locally (Hunger Mountain Coop, Muddy Boots CSA, etc.) and across the region. The property is located in the Forest/Agriculture Zoning District, features 100% state and prime rated ag soils, and it abuts the home farm. The additional acreage will allow Amanda to expand crop production and her cover cropping rotation. It will also protect an important agricultural resource and encourage agricultural activity for generations to come through an Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV). The land will be owned by Amanda Andrews (Tamarack Hollow Farm) with a conservation easement held by the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

We were also able to look at maps of the parcel in question.

Motion (by Mead) Moved to support a conservation easement of the Andrews parcel on Country Club Rd for permanent agricultural use. Said easement to be held by the Vermont Land Trust.
(**Seconded** by Julie)

In discussion Rose noted that we have funds available to assist in the process if needed.

Voted: The motion passed unanimously.

Town Forest: Rose had the nine chestnut seedlings in her garden and would like them to be planted this spring in the forest. April 11 is a possible, weather dependent, work day.

Cemetery Commission: Rose was invited to a meeting where they discussed an eroding bank of the Winooski on the edge of the Village cemetery. Several graves appear to be at risk. This is not in our purview but they could contact Michael Billingsley re: the work that will be done on the Winooski because of the dam removal and Lucas Goldfluss the Conservation Specialist at the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. His email is: Lucas@WinooskiNRCD.org

Misc. We all need to be familiar with the Town Ethics Policy and be able to report to Rose.
https://www.plainfieldvt.gov/uploads/8/1/0/6/81063668/municipal_code_of_ethics.pdf

Next meeting: April 15

Adjourn: 8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted, Mary Trerice