

Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes October 20, 2021

Present: Serena Matt, Becky Atchinson, Rose Paul, Mary Trerice
Meeting via Zoom.

Minutes: September minutes were approved as written.

Covid Money Update: Town Forest access seems to be in a very gray area and probably not worth pursuing.

Grants for Town Forest: Becky's September 20th conversation with road foreman, Mike Nolan, was summarized as:

- If the road is done right, it shouldn't need water bars.
- Replacing the culvert didn't come up.
- The worst part is from Mancini's field to the town forest.
- The road needs ditching, which he's hoping to do, but may not have time this year. It could take a couple weeks or less to do this.
- He still has ditch material from Grey Road, but it's sandy.
- It may take up to \$10K to put gravel on it.
- As we are aware, town policy is that it doesn't maintain class 4 roads. There have been cases where a property owner pays this. There's one near the Red Store on Robert Lane where a property owner is trying to get the town to fix it now, so it could be awkward if the town fixes one but not the other. I mentioned that the town is the owner of the impacted land on Gonyeau Rd, which he acknowledged.
- If we want to get this part of the road reclassified to class 3, so the town will have to maintain it, this process will involve the state and the neighbors.
- He mentioned hearing about state \$\$ for class 4 roads and gave me the name of the woman who is the head of it: Shauna Clifford, Dist 7, St. Johnsbury (535-5317). I called her and she said there's a "grant in aid" if the road is hydraulically connected to water (stream, ditch, lake, pond, etc). She also noted that Gonyeau Road is called Town Highway 26 and that .83 mile is class 4. She needs to do a bit more research and will call me back tomorrow morning.

Becky checked with Shauna Clifford of VTrans and found that Gonyeau Rd., though hydraulically connected, has a very low priority and they offer no grants for Class IV roads in general.

Serena had compiled a list of possible grant resources and we searched through that. **Serena will contact Sherri Winnie of Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation and Mary will contact Jessica Savage of Vermont Outdoor Recreation Communities.**

We are all extremely frustrated that the primary and most accessible access to the Town Forest cannot be used by most due to the condition of Gonyeau Road! We will continue improving the trail from the Maxfield Road side of the forest, however this is wet and steep. **Rose will contact** Maple Hill School to see if they are still interested in forest work.

Signage for the Town Forest trails: Rose is gathering pricing information from a provider that she has worked with before and hopes to have this information for our next meeting. This would allow us to place official blazes to mark various trails. **Becky will photograph** the signage at the Triple Point Area and perhaps this will be re-blazed, also.

Plant Sale Meeting: Serena reported that Marshfield will run the sale this year and Cabot will continue to join in. New brochures are needed due to software changes. A motion was made and approved for a \$300 budget to produce the new brochure to be shared between the three towns. **Serena will continue** working on this.

Adjourn: 8:20

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Trerice