

## Plainfield Conservation Commission August 20, 2025 Minutes

**Present:** Rose Paul, Mo Lynch, Becky Atchinson, Julie Hackbarth  
7:00 - 8:15, by ZOOM

**Minutes:** July 16, 2025 minutes were approved.

**Brush hogging town forest trail:** The group reviewed the quote from Bellavance for mowing the town forest trails two times during 2025 (\$1140) . Bellavance has previously mowed these trails prior to the pandemic. Since it is already late summer, the group agreed to ask the Selectboard for approval to move ahead and arrange for one mowing this fall. This work will most likely include removal of some debris & downed trees from the trails since it has been several years since the last mowing. Rose will arrange to attend an upcoming Selectboard meeting to request approval, using funds from the Town Forest Fund.

**Ash tree removal in village:** The group reviewed two quotes for removing 4 declining Ash trees in the village and agreed to recommend hiring Foxfire Tree Care, due to their lower cost quote for comparable work. Quotes submitted were Alexander Tree Service-\$3600 &, FoxfireTree Care Company-\$2691. Rose plans to attend an upcoming selectboard meeting to recommend hiring Foxfire, using funds from the Conservation Commission Street Tree Reserve Fund.

**Ash Removal Along Town Roadways:** The group discussed a question that has come up as to whether the town is required to remove all ash trees along town roads, which has been estimated to involve some 2,000 ash trees. The Conservation Commission wants to clarify that there is no such requirement. The report that has been shared with the town includes an inventory of all ash trees in the town ROW, regardless of whether they are healthy, infected, or at risk of becoming a hazard. The report was shared with Town Officials for information/planning purposes should the town decide to make and implement a plan which prioritizes removal of hazardous/infected/declining Ash trees along town roadways.

**Chestnut tree seedlings:** Rose shared an idea about planting some Chestnut seedlings or seeds in the patch cut area of the town forest.

**Liberty Elms:** The Liberty Elm organization is offering to sell 45-foot tall Liberty elms to towns to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States next year. Pricing is unknown. We would need a contractor to install such a big tree and we don't think there is a good place to put it. Rose is aware that the Liberty Elms are advertised as resistant to Dutch elm disease but they have never been tested and she has heard about some of them dying. We agree that this would not be a good investment.

**Other:** The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is hosting several meetings:  
\* 2025 Virtual Summit and Annual Meeting: Invitation to members of the conservation on Zoom at 12:00 pm on Wed September 10th. Information and registration: [2025 Virtual Summit and Annual Meeting](#)

\* AVCC is hosting a regional gathering for CC members on October 11th in Hardwick. 9 am - 2 PM.  
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/tbXdgs9XQntpihRC7> Maureen may attend.

Next monthly meeting: September 18, 2025 via ZOOM

**Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Hackbarth**