

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**November 19, 2025**

**Present:** Julie Hackbarth, Rose Paul, Becky Atchinson, Mo Lynch, Mary Terrice  
**Guest:** Mead Binhammer

**Introduction:** Rose introduced Mead who is interested in joining the Conservation Commission. From his letter of introduction: “I work for the Vermont Land Trust as a Project Director in central Vermont, focused on new forestland conservation projects and stewardship of conserved lands. I also serve on the board of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. I'm passionate about local conservation, and want to help further efforts in Plainfield however I can!” We enthusiastically welcomed him!

**Minutes:** The October minutes were approved with Mary and Mo abstaining since they had not been present at that meeting.

**Town Forest:** Rose arranged brush hogging and some was done but they hit a snag-literally. There were too many downed trees over the trail to complete the work. Rose estimated that most of the trees are less than 1 ft. diameter and that a volunteer group could clear the trail. We decided to try for a work morning on December 13 starting at 10 am. Mead volunteered to bring his chain saw and Mo will post to see if we can get some volunteers. Rose reported that the road was quite passable with a small pick-up probably due to the logging that's been taking place on the Strong property.

**Weather Station:** George Springston has purchased and installed a station on the Strong farm in Orange. It is at the height of the Great Brook watershed and the farm has wi-fi. Rose will send the link. Thank you, George!

**Brook and River Studies:** These are underway on the Great Brook and the Winooski River. There will be much information coming in the future. Roy Schiff's engineering firm is managing the Brook study under the Vermont Emergency Management Agency.

**Better Connections Grant:** Rose submitted a grant to create a master plan for multi-modal connections from the village to the Plainfield Co-op. She will send out the link for this application. We should hear by December 1 and public participation will be required.

**Proposed Changes to Vermont Wetlands Rules:** We were not informed enough to have a good discussion of the proposed changes and felt this should be held at our next meeting. Public comments are encouraged and we discussed if a statement from our Commission would be appropriate. That needs some research.

**New Member:** Mead does indeed want to join. We explained the appointment process and encouraged him to send his request to the Select Board. Rose will also communicate with the Board. Thank you, Mead!

**Adjourn:** 8:09 pm      Respectfully submitted, Mary Terrice