

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Wednesday April 15, 2026 Minutes - Draft

Present: Rose Paul, Mo Lynch, Becky Atchinson, Mead Binhammer and Julie Hackbarth.

Guest: Rose Fairley

Introduction: Rose P. introduced Rose Fairley who is a new Plainfield resident and is interested in joining the Conservation Commission. We all introduced ourselves and welcomed her warmly. Rose F. shared information about her work as a native plant/ecological landscape designer in Southern California where she has lived most recently. She is excited to participate in the Commission to support conservation and land stewardship efforts in Plainfield. Rose F. will be contacting the select board to formally join the commission.

Minutes: The Mar 18, 2026 minutes were approved with the addition of the name of the movie (Defending the Dark. Preserving the Night Sky) added. Mo abstained since she was not at that meeting.

Green Up Day - May 2, 2026: Mo gave an update on planning for Green Up Day and is working on getting volunteer slots filled. Green Up bags will be available at the town recreation field parking lot from 10 AM to 12 noon. Drop off time for Green-Up trash is from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Town Garage on Cameron Road. Twinfield students will be out picking up trash along Plainfield Town Roads on Wednesday April 29 (rain date April 30).

Conservation Fund: The Commission reviewed and discussed an application submitted on April 10, 2025 by Clarice Cutler of the Vermont LandTrust, for funding from the Plainfield Conservation Fund. The project is conservation of a 15 acre parcel to be owned by Amanda Andrews of Tamarack Hollow Farm, located on the Country Club Road in Plainfield. The request is a \$2,000 contribution to the project's stewardship endowment.

Motion: Rose P. moved to recommend to the Selectboard that the Town grant the Vermont Land Trust \$2,000 from the Conservation Fund to help fund the stewardship endowment for the Andrews A farm conservation parcel on Country Club Road.

- Seconded: Mo
- Approved: Motion was approved by all Commission members present.

Next step: Rose P. will forward this recommendation to Selectboard. Rose P and Mead will attend an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

National Park Service assistance project: Rose provided some updates on this assistance project. The focus has been on what flood recovery could consist of for parcels after FEMA buyout. The plan is to start with several parcels on Route 2 east of the village intersection which have advanced through the FEMA buyout process. However this process will not move ahead until after review of the findings from a Batchelder dam removal study that is currently underway. That study includes an evaluation of the effect of dam removal on these properties. The next meeting with representatives of the National Park Service is Thursday May 7. 12:30 PM.

Town Forest: On April 11, Rose, Mead and several other volunteers spent time clearing the Town Forest trails in preparation for mowing. They found that waste dumping has been actively occurring at the Maxfield Rd Trail head parking lot on town owned property. Rose has contacted Town officials about this.

Dark Sky Educational Movie Event April 14: The movie event went well. There was a good turnout including people from other towns. Rose plans to post Dark Sky information on the Plainfield Conservation Commission webpage. This movie can be viewed online, without a streaming service. The Link to watch the Defending the Dark movie:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/defending-the-dark-ewqew8/>

Link to join DarkSky Vermont: <https://darkskyvt.org/join-us/>

At this meeting, the suggestion was made to incorporate sky friendly lighting into future town park plans for FEMA buyout properties (if lighting is necessary).

Next Meeting May 20, 2026

Respectfully by Julie Hackbarth