

Plainfield Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes 16 January 2013

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Buchanan, Charlie Cogbill, Jonathan Decker, Jan Waterman

Absent: Kate Harper

We were sorry to receive notice from Sarah O'Brien of her resignation from the commission. Jan will send her a note of thanks.

Minutes: Minutes from December meeting approved.

Town Plan: Our comments on the latest draft of the plan have gone back to the planning commission. Discussed timing for Jens Hilke to repeat his presentation; will wait to select a date with him until we know when the draft town plan will be available to the public.

Town Forest Trails: Sarah A. followed up with Luke O'Brien. He's willing to come sometime before leaf-out for consultation on town forest trails design. Estimated cost of his services for us is about \$200. Moved, seconded and approved that the conservation commission contract with Luke O'Brien, trails coordinator for the NW Stewardship Center, to come to Plainfield and spend a portion of a day to propose trail routes in the town forest, and that we use up to \$250 from our Tree Fund for that purpose. Sarah will schedule with him sometime in late March, depending on weather. We'll take GIS and flagging tape and go with him. Eventually we'll create a map of the trail system, and perhaps construct kiosks at both parking areas where map and other town forest info can be posted.

Information Dissemination: Discussed need for more useable town website to post information such as the proposed town forest trails map. When map is ready, the planned kiosk in the village will be another place to post it. Meanwhile, Front Porch Forum is very useful.

Class 4 Road re: downgrading the section of Gonyeau Rd. bordering the town forest to trail status. Sarah spoke about this idea with Don Sherman, abutting landowner, who approved the idea on condition that his access remain open and the process can be reversed in the future, if need be. (It is.) Sarah will also check with Jim Capobianco, the other abutter, even though his house access isn't affected.

Tree and Shrub Sale: Sarah reported on planning meeting w/Marshfield conservation commission. Plants have been ordered; brochures will be ready for Town Meeting. Tree sales have decreased, so this year the emphasis is on food-bearing plants.

Green UP: Sarah O. will not be coordinating it this year. Town Clerk asked Kate for name of coordinator by tomorrow. Jonathan agreed to serve as coordinator with assistance from Becky and Jan. Jan will contact Sarah O. to ask about handing over information he will need.

Request from Karen Bouffard: Karen contacted Kate and Jan with a request that the commission co-sponsor an information session for townspeople regarding health hazards of nano particle emissions from proposed Goddard biomass heating plant. After extensive discussion, consensus was that we could not do this. Jan will let Karen know.

Next meeting: February 20, 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jan Waterman, Secretary  
Plainfield Conservation Commission