

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 16 August 2017

Present: Sarah Albert, Kim Sudol, Jan Waterman

Absent: Becky Atchinson, Charlie Cogbill, Julie Hackbarth, Mary Trerice

Guest: Rose Paul (7:30-8:00)

Meeting convened by Sarah at 7:20 p.m., agenda reviewed

Minutes: Minutes from July meeting reviewed, but due to lack of quorum couldn't be officially approved.

Old Home Day: Sarah and Kim will organize a table at the Rec Field to display information about CC projects and provide sign-up sheets for those who want more information. Nicko Rubin will lead a walking tour of Street Trees starting from the Rec Field 1:00-1:30. Rose Paul will conduct an invasives workshop at her house, 2:00-3:00 or 3:30.

Rose Paul (TNC): The Nature Conservancy and the Vermont Natural Resources Council are joined in a statewide effort to remove obsolete dams for the sake of improving aquatic health. This project has financial support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The dam in our village (Batchelder Dam) is ranked as high priority for removal, and TNC and VNRC would like to explore the possibility, with the town's consent, of removing this dam. Doing so would open up 110 km of stream (including tributaries to the Winooski) for the benefit of brown and brook trout, a rare mussel, and other aquatic species. Planned removal would also avoid future collapse of the aging dam. Rose will present more information at our September 20 meeting for further discussion.

Upcoming Events:

ANR Municipal Day: September 15; **AVCC Summit:** September 23; **Backyard Woods Program:** an 8-week online course, September 18-October 23.

Town Forest: On our last workday, August 5, even though rain was an issue, good trail clearing was done. Thanks to Sarah, Julie, Andy Robinson, Jan and Kim and her two sons, especially to Sarah, Kim and the boys who persisted despite the rain, and to Sarah and Andy who returned the next day too. We need to relocate the lower trail and repair or replace the puncheon in the wetland. On Friday 11th, Sherry Winnie (ANR Forest, Parks and Recreation, Trails Program grant administrator) visited the forest. Sarah walked the trails with her, and Sherry was pleased to see the results of their program's support. **Next workday: Saturday, August 26th.**

Current Use Outreach, Street Tree Policy and Long Term Educational Strategy: These two areas of discussion dovetail nicely. Kim, Sarah and Mary are in the process of putting together a combined, focused outreach list which will increase our effectiveness and help us stay clear on tasks and responsibilities.

BioFinder Workshop: The workshop leader, Monica Przyperhart of the VT Fish and Wildlife Department, sent back some dates she could be available this fall: 10/25, 11/1, 11/8 and 12/13. We will decide date at our next meeting, when we hope to have higher attendance.

Open Meeting Law workshop, presented by attorney Jim Barlow, formerly of VT League of Cities and Towns. Sarah attended most of this, but had to leave early. She reviewed with us relevant information she gathered.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 20 at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Co-Chair and Secretary