

Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes
April 20, 2022

Present: Serena Matt, Julie Hackbarth, Rose Paul, Mary Trerice

Guest: Britt Haselton of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Proposed conservation project: Britt explained the process of conserving an agricultural property in Plainfield. In addition to seeking Town approval and funding, the VHCB, Vt Land Trust, and the Federal agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, are all involved. He is hoping that a closing can be arranged by September or October on the submitted application.

We reviewed the Purchase and Sale document for the development rights on the MacLaren farm on Upper Rd. and the Conservation Fund Application. It is now owned by the Brickey brothers and operates as an organic dairy farm known as Brickey Brothers Valley View Farm. This is the only commercial dairy farm operating in Plainfield. We were impressed with the thoroughness of these documents and agreed that the \$10,000 request from the Conservation Fund was reasonable given the scope of the project. Rose remembered a gully study and that there are two sensitive areas on the farm. These are duly noted in the application.

We believe this project fully meets the requirements outlined in our application process and Rose made the following **motion:** So moved that the Conservation Commission recommend that the Selectboard approves the release of \$10,000 from the Plainfield Conservation Fund to the Vermont Land Trust and the Brickey Family to partially fund a conservation easement on the 162-acre MacLaren/Brickey Farm on the Upper Road. Seconded by Mary Trerice and approved unanimously.

The next step is to bring this before the Select Board.

Green Up Day: Becky had sent in her update. Serena will help Saturday morning, there will be some refreshments provided by Shaw's, Rose will help with the letterboard.

Tree and Shrub sale: Seems to be going well.

AVCC Tiny Grant: Rose applied for money to help with the purchase of trail markers, updating the trail map, and brush hogging the trails.

Town Forest: Mowing quotes and tree removal quotes are in hand. (a few trees have fallen over the trail) Motion: Serena moved that the proceeds from the Tree sale go to the Town Forest Fund. Rose seconded. All favored.

Meetings: We may meet via Zoom until January 2023. As a group, we may decide on meeting in person.

Adjourn: 8:18 Respectfully submitted, Mary Trerice