

## Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes February 16, 2022

**Present:** (via Zoom) Serena Matt, Becky Atchinson, Rose Paul, Julie Hackbarth, Mary Trerice. Guests: Caitlin Roseen, Robert Nelson

**Minutes:** The January minutes were approved with a minor change.

**Washington County Forester:** Robert Nelson joined us to meet everyone and to discuss his role as our new County Forester. He lives in Randolph and was a consulting forester with a firewood/logging business in Maine for the past ten years. He explained that 70% of his responsibilities are the review of Forest Management Plans for the Use Value Appraisal Program, aka Current Use, and this includes visiting every UVA site at least once every 10 years. There are 1800 enrolled parcels in Washington County. The remaining 30% of his time he is available as a public resource. He encouraged us to let our Town know about his availability and the current use program.

Robert is available for workshops and talks as well as visits to individual properties. Possible subjects include invasive species, management of small-scale forest properties, and dealing with emerald ash borer.

Becky brought up the issue of making allowances for older growth forests in current use plans as part of climate change mitigation. Robert said that there is talk of this but the policy has yet to be changed. He encouraged us to reach out to the Dept. of Forests and Parks and legislators.

We had a discussion about our Town Forest and ash trees. Robert said he would contact Savannah Ferreira about possibly setting out traps in the forest.

**Conservation Fund:** We reviewed the collection of documents re: the CF. We agreed that the fund should be publicized to the Town and **Mary will work up** something. **Julie**, starting with Rose's summary spread-sheet, **will work on** a description of the flow of money over time since the fund began.

**Town Forest Signage:** **Rose** has submitted a request to the Selectboard to authorize up to \$550 for the signs. She is also going to submit a mini-grant to help pay for this.

**Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions:** We need to pay our dues. **Rose** will do so.

**Adjourn:** 8:16

Respectfully submitted, Mary Trerice