

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 17 July 2013

Present: Sarah Albert, Julie Hackbarth, Kate Harper, Jan Waterman

Absent: Becky Buchanan, Charlie Cogbill

Minutes: Minutes from June meeting corrected and approved.

Budget Update: Sarah reported some confusion has occurred regarding budget. It's unclear whether the AVCC dues payment was taken from last year's budget or this one's. Sarah will check on this, and also on the balance in the Street Trees fund.

Town Plan Update: Jan reported on the Planning Commission's two-part public hearing which she attended. (On the initial date, July 2nd, the review only progressed about half way through the plan, so the second half was reviewed on July 11th.) During the second part of the hearing, the Selectboard asked the Planning Commission to rework language throughout the plan to be more clear, directive and unambiguous, especially on key issues. Otherwise, in case of Act 250 review, the town can have very little or no influence. Jan will look for other town plans adopted since the JAM decision (which would contain the desired sort of language,) go back over all conservation-related sections of our plan with this in mind, and submit further suggestions to Will Colgan.

AVCC Tiny Grant (and beyond): Sarah reported that the town was awarded \$600 through this grant, which will allow us to obtain a detailed, organized plan for construction of a trail system in our town forest. We need this data to submit an application to Forest, Parks and Recreation for a grant of up to \$20,000 which, if awarded, would be used to actually construct the trail system. We discussed ways to meet the 20% match required by the Forest, Parks and Rec grant, such as volunteer labor, materials, or perhaps town work on the section of Gonyeau Road that abuts the town forest, if it's downgraded to Trail status. Sarah will present this information to the Selectboard, and will ask Luke O'Brien to submit a budget for the work we need done. Major thanks to Sarah for all her work on this.

New member prospect: At the July 2nd portion of the town plan public hearing, Becky Cushing approached Jan to express her interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. Becky has recently moved to Plainfield from Burlington. Jan sent her more conservation commission information, and Becky sent back her very impressive resume. We can expect Becky at our August meeting – currently she's hiking the Long Trail. She would be an excellent and very welcome addition!

Kiosk: It's up; it's empty (for now). Sarah is working on a map and information for the recreation panel; other pieces are coming together as well.

Pet waste: Loona Brogan let us know that during the history walk through the village on June 21st, the subject of pet waste pollution of waterways was mentioned, and several people expressed surprise at hearing that this is a problem. We discussed ways we could help with public education on this matter: new signs (Kate will look over the park and Rec Field, and will talk with Linda about getting new/improved signage in these places;) and posting articles on Front Porch Forum (Kate), Plainfield People (Sarah) and in Field Notes (Jan, Sept. issue).

Next meeting: August 21, 2013 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jan Waterman, Secretary
Plainfield Conservation Commission