

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 16 January 2017

Convened by Sarah Albert at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Atchinson, Julie Hackbarth, Mary Trerice, Jan Waterman

Absent: Charlie Cogbill, Kate Harper

Guest: Brett Engstrom (7:30-8:40)

Minutes: Minutes from December meeting approved.

Plant Sale: Sarah met with Marshfield CC members to select offerings for this year's sale. Bram will allow us to use his barn on Friday April 28th to sort, and tag orders. Distribution will be on Saturday morning, April 29th as usual. Deadline for orders will be Friday April 7th.

Strategies for Land Conservation: Brett discussed with us many ideas for educating landowners about the benefits of enrollment in the voluntary Current Use program and details of Ecological Special Treatment Area (ESTA) designations. He suggested we focus our efforts on some of the high priority sites identified in his ecological inventory report. Brett also emphasized the great importance of vegetative riparian buffers. We then explored ideas for making information about sensitive areas known to people interested in development of their land before they spend money on plans, i.e., listers and zoning administrator having maps of those areas at hand so they could easily use and share them; including Current Use information (especially about tax benefits) with tax bills of those who might qualify; creating some sort of town document advertising information about those special areas, to make known that the town does value them; including relevant maps in the next town plan.

Tree Ordinance: Sarah has a meeting set up with the Selectboard to see if they are interested in the CC developing a tree ordinance, and will report back at our next meeting.

We need a new media person: Delia is finding it difficult to respond to our requests as quickly as we sometimes need her to, and has asked us to find someone else to take over the job of posting for us on the town website, on social media, etc. Jan will follow up with her on some of the questions raised by the group, and will post a request on FPF.

Speaker Series: Sarah relayed a request from the group (Marshfield and Plainfield Conservation Commissions and libraries, and Natural Marshfield) organizing the speaker series. After exploring several possibilities that haven't panned out, they welcome any suggestions we might have for possible speakers. Please send ideas to Loona.

Town Meeting: Ideas for CC display at town meeting brainstormed. Maps with tags and arrows of special places, Current Use program info, town forest trail maps all possibilities. Jan will check with Linda Wells about reserving table and wall space.

Town Forest: Sarah suggested we consider asking Gary Drinkwater to supply and plant some trees around the Gonyeau Rd. parking area, to create natural boundaries. Consensus was that we could afford to do it, and it's a good idea. Sarah will pursue the possibility and report at our next meeting.

We acknowledged the loss to our community and to all of central Vermont of Steve Gladczuk, CVRPC senior planner, who passed away recently. He will be very much missed.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 15 at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Secretary