

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes 18 October 2017

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Atchinson, Charlie Cogbill, Mary Trerice, Jan Waterman

Absent: Julie Hackbarth, Kim Sudol

Meeting convened by Sarah at 7:15; agenda reviewed; Minutes from September meeting approved.

AVCC Summit: Julie attended, and she let Sarah know that at that event, Jens Hilke asked about the zoning updates.

Zoning: Sarah attended the 10/16 Planning Commission meeting. The proposed revisions of zoning regulations are almost ready for public hearing. But a couple of complex issues remain to be figured out (events and rentals), and given that the Chair will be out of town over the winter, it looks unlikely that there will be a hearing before spring.

Act 171: Jan gave brief overview, and reported that she's been in conversations with Eric Vorland of CVRPC about this. After January 1, municipal plans and possibly zoning regulations may be affected by this. Guidance on how new statute requirements will be implemented is pending, as is his report considering Plainfield's town plan. His advice is to talk with him again after the first webinar, November 28<sup>th</sup>, by which time the directives will be more clear. Dates scheduled for other webinars are: Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, January 29<sup>th</sup>, and Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Website: Delia has promised to continue posting minutes for us for the time being (thank you!). We don't know yet who will handle website improvement for the town, or how the website will change. Becky gave feedback when she attended the Selectboard meeting at which they discussed the issue.

Educational Presentation November 7<sup>th</sup>: Our next presentation, about black bear behavior, will be on Tuesday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at Goddard's Haybarn, at 7 pm. The presenter will be Ben Kilham, who lives in New Hampshire and is an expert on black bear behavior. He is a well-known lecturer on this subject, and has been featured on many nationally televised programs (National Geographic, Today Show and Discovery Channel, among others.) This evening will once again be jointly sponsored by the libraries and conservation commissions of Marshfield and Plainfield. Mr. Kilham's fee is \$350 + mileage, and Goddard requires \$50 for use of their facility. We have just under \$400 in hand from previous donations. It was proposed that each of the four sponsors contribute \$25 to cover expenses, and add whatever isn't needed this time to whatever donations we collect that evening. Voted and approved to spend up to \$25 as needed to cover costs for this presentation.

Town Forest: Work on trails still needed. Prospective dates are Oct. 28 or 29<sup>th</sup>. As the time draws near, we'll try to pick the day with the most favorable weather forecast, as attendance looks to be about the same on either day. Jan will handle notification. We need steel rakes to remove debris from underfoot on already cleared trails, and weed whackers to finish clearing the rest. Boardwalk repair still needs to be planned. Sarah will flag trails to be cleared from farm spring to lower parking lot.

Mill Street Park: Mary brought a concern she's heard from a couple of people, about density of trees blocking light and visibility at the park. Sarah will check with tree warden Nicko to see if he can take care of some thinning there, and also clearing low-hanging branches over sidewalks in a couple of other areas of town.

BioFinder workshop: Mary will coordinate dates and place (hopefully Cutler Library) and let us know.

Long Term Strategy/Educational Outreach: Sarah and Mary will set up a time to meet with Kim to proceed with this plan. Info about disseminating Current Use options, Street Tree Policy, conservation values, invasive plant management and more will be addressed.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, **November 15** at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Co-Chair and Secretary