

Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes

November 17, 2021

DRAFT

Present: Serena Matt, Becky Atchinson, Rose Paul, Julie Hackbarth

Absent: Mary Trerice

Meeting via Zoom.

Minutes: October minutes were approved, as corrected by Becky Atchinson.

Town Narrative Reports due December 10th: Julie Hackbarth will draft the Conservation Commission's annual report by the end of November and circulate it to other commission members for comments and revisions. A quick turn around will be necessary to be able to forward a final document to Linda by December 10th.

Finish Goals Discussion: At the September meeting the group developed a list of goals for the commission to work on and discussed most of the goals. The remaining goals will be discussed at the December meeting.

Grant inquiry update: The group discussed relevant grant programs for improving road access to the town forest, including a Vermont Outdoor Recreation Communities (VOREC) grant. Recently the Cross Vermont Trail Association included both the Plainfield Conservation Commission and the Recreation Committee as potential partners in a letter of intent for a VOREC grant and was denied. We discussed trying again and what we would do differently for a stronger application, including collaborating with other organizations. We will revisit this at our April 2022 meeting to prepare for the next round of grant applications.

Town Forest signage pricing update: Rose investigated options and costs for purchasing signs for the Town Forest Trails, funded by the Town Forest Fund. After discussing the options, the group settled on simple directional markers for the trails and signs to make the boundaries of the town forest. A motion was passed to ask the Selectboard for approval to spend up to \$600 for trail signs and town forest boundary signs.

Act 171 Town Planning Webinar: A recent webinar focussed on the process for municipalities to select specific forest blocks and habitat connectors for compliance with Act 171. Serena reported that the Planning Commission has addressed this requirement. They hired a consultant who wrote a report which is included as an appendix in the new town plan.

Plant Sale Update - Serena provided some updates. Sarah is working on converting the plant sale brochure to WORD. The Town of Marshfield is leading the 2022 plant sale.

Town Forest mowing Suggestion: Serena reported that Sarah suggested mowing the trails twice a year with the first mowing early in the season to help reduce the numbers of ticks on the trails. She also shared the name of another business that could bid on mowing the Town Forest trails (Abare Lawn Care & Property Services - Barre). We will revisit early next spring.

Next Meeting: December 15, 2021 7 PM

Adjourn at 8:30

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Hackbarth