

~DRAFT~ Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes
August 19, 2020

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Buchanan, Julie Hackbarth, Serena Matt and Rose Paul.

Again, due to the Pandemic, the Commission met (socially distancing) on Rose's lawn. Sarah Albert convened the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and one item was added.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Since members did not have a chance to review the draft minutes from the July 15, 2020 meeting, approval of the minutes was postponed until the September meeting. The draft July meeting minutes are posted on the Town Conservation Commission webpage:
plainfieldvt.us/conservation-commission.html

EAB grants for towns & handling street trees with EAB: The group discussed and decided not to apply for an EAB grant. If needed in the future, the commission does have funds to remove and replace a village ash tree that had been previously funded and planted through a Commission street tree-planting grant.

EAB Awareness Week (September 12-19, 2020): The Commission discussed planning a EAB walk of the trails in the town forest to identify ash trees and observe whether there are any signs of EAB. The tentative plan for the walk during this Awareness week will be on Sunday September 13 at 1:30 - 3 or 3:30 PM. Rose will post information on Front Porch Forum and Sarah will ask the Town Website Manager to post information on the Town Conservation Commission Web page.

Update on Waterwise Woodlands water quality grant:
Sarah let the Michele Braun (Executive Director of Friends of the Winooski River) that Rose volunteered to a Town Representative for this grant project. Rose has not heard back. Serena is interested in as a 2nd Town Representative.

Town forest trail access & brochure update: The Town Forest is located in the South East Corner of the Town of Plainfield. There are 2 trailhead parking lots for the Forest. The primary parking lot and access is at of the end of Gonyeau Road. This town road is in poor condition from the turn-around sign to the Town Forest parking lot, which limits public access to the town forest. Only high clearance vehicles can make it to the parking lot without damage to the vehicle.

Sarah reported that the Select Board has indicated that the Road Crew does not have time this year to work on improving Gonyeau Road from the turn-around sign to the Town Forest parking lot. The public will have to continue to walk along Gonyeau Road from the turn-around sign to the Town Forest or park along the

road when no longer able to drive any further. It is about a 15-minute walk to the Town Forest from the turn-around sign.

Sarah report that she corrected a misunderstanding that the Selectboard had about access from the other trail head parking which is located to the east of the Town Forest off of Maxfield Road. Access to the Town Forest from that parking area is currently not possible without replacing the Board Walk that is currently in disrepair. Sarah has had contact with Ben Davis at East Hill School about student projects at the town forest including replacement of the Board Walk.

The Town Forest Brochure will be updated before the next printing and will also be posted on the Town Commission webpage.

Draft Composting Grant Application:

Alice Sky, a town resident, prepared and provided the Commission a draft organics composting grant application for review and comments. The deadline for submitting the application to the Central Vermont Solid Waste District is sometime during October 2020. The group discussed comments on the packet provided. Sarah will get back to Alice with our comments.

Adjourned about 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Hackbarth