

Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes
January 26, 2021

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

The Commission held an online meeting via Zoom beginning at 7 PM. This monthly meeting was postponed from the scheduled date of January 20. Sarah Albert convened the meeting.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The December meeting minutes were unanimously approved without any revisions. Sarah provided an update on the proposed 2022 Conservation Fund budget. The Select board approved our request for \$2000.

Update from Waterwise Woodlands meeting: Rose and Serena provided an update from the Waterwise meetings they are attending. A consultant has been hired to help the group figure out who the priority target audience is for reaching out to landowners about improving forest management practices and maintaining intact forest for the end goal of improving water quality in the watershed. Once the target audience is determined, focus groups will be convened, and then the next step is to develop the most effective messaging.

Tree sale 2021 flyer: Sarah has drafted the flyer and will email it to Commission members for review and edits and possibly adding wording about riparian areas. Sarah would like to advertise the sale and have flyers available to interested people soon, considering that Town Meeting has been delayed until early April and will probably not be an in-person meeting. Sarah also mentioned that Cabot CC met and discussed whether to join in as sponsors of the sale with Plainfield and Marshfield. Before deciding that, they would like to participate as “trainees” so their members can learn the procedures for organizing, preparing and putting on the pick up day. They do not expect to receive a part of the proceeds this year.

Gonyeau Rd. maintenance: Maintenance of Gonyeau Road will be discussed at the February 8 Select board meeting. The group discussed how to clarify what is really necessary and how big a project this might be. Rose will contact Mike Nolan to find out what he thinks. The group also talked about whether there may be any upcoming COVID related grant programs, which might include improving access to publically owned natural/recreational areas. Serena will look into this.

Items from January FPDF (online) bulletin: Sarah mentioned a forest pest detection list serve that CC members join in on and a shade tree preservation grant program for writing a shade tree protection plan.

Other business: Sarah reported that Dan Singleton is overseeing the State logging project in the Spruce Mountain area.

Adjourned about 8:10 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Julie Hackbarth