

Plainfield Conservation Commission

19 October 2016

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Atchinson, Charlie Cogbill, Kate Harper, Julie Hackbarth, Mary Trerice, Jan Waterman

7:20 Convene

Minutes of September meeting were approved.

Discussion about chairperson: Jan asked if anyone could see their way clear to take on the role of chairperson, as she and Sarah already have many CC-related tasks. No takers; Kate hopes to be able to take this on again at some point in the future.

Town Forest: We discussed ways to honor Allen Soule – planting a tree (his/his family's request of those who would like to honor him), naming a trail for him, building a bench? Consensus that we'd like to do something; no decision made.

Sarah reported that work on the parking areas has begun. She showed photos of progress so far, and continues to oversee and troubleshoot the project. Thank you, Sarah!

Also, the signs for the Town Forest should be ready soon. Sarah suggested we walk through the forest and decide on possible trails, note them with GPS, clear those trails, and post notices on the kiosks that "Trail map is coming." We set a date for trail clearing and marking: Saturday, October 29, at 1:00; meet at the Gonyeau Rd. entrance.

Fees for Educational Speakers: The cost of bringing the two speakers to the Haybarn on October 25 and paying Goddard a nominal amount for the use of the space exceeded what we'd collected in donations for the last talk. We voted and approved a payment of up to \$50 towards this jointly sponsored (Cutler & Jacquith libraries, Plainfield & Marshfield Conservation Commissions, Natural Marshfield, Goddard College) event. At the time of our meeting we were unsure of the exact amount and to whom the check needed to be sent. Sarah will follow up.

Resiliency Project: Jan reported. She participated in a recent meeting and in the community work day during which the picnic shelter at the Rec Field was taken down. Most materials were set aside to be reused or recycled; location of a new one isn't decided yet. Another work day is planned for the spring to plant a buffer along the edge of the field where the shelter was. The brook is seriously undercutting that bank. The Resiliency team invited us to review the list of plants they're considering and give feedback. We discussed this, and Jan will forward comments to that committee. Also, next week they will put down some sort of mulch or seed to cover the bare ground, to stabilize the soil over the coming months.

Annual Town Report: Budget and narrative for the annual town report are due: Budget due to Linda by 12/1; Sarah will bring draft to our November meeting for approval. Narrative due at the end of December; Jan will draft and circulate before December meeting.

Outreach and Education about Natural Communities Inventory: Jens Hilke urged the CC to do maximum outreach and education about the inventory, so that many people will understand why that information is significant, and why it matters to them. Jan talked this over with Brett and relayed his suggestions, which we discussed. Charlie and the Upper Winooski Field Naturalists will lead a field trip in the spring. We will try to schedule another public forum with Brett in the next few months, and also hope to increase contact with owners of parcels in high priority sites. Will Colgan has indicated that he will participate in these efforts, and will see if others on Planning Commission want to as well.

Draft of Zoning Regulations: Many of the changes we requested haven't been incorporated; none of the definitions Will asked to us create have been included. Will forwarded maps Jens generated based on Brett's report; we are not sure how to interpret them. Jan will ask Will or Jens for help with this, so we can understand the information and hopefully better understand what the Planning Commission is working with.

Possible Volunteers Source: While reviewing a recorded Selectboard meeting, Jan noticed mention of Pastor John Jablonski of Macedonia Baptist Church, who has offered to help find volunteers for town projects among members of his congregation. Perhaps they would consider helping us with some of our projects.

8:45 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Secretary

Next meeting: November 16, 7:15 p.m.