

Plainfield Conservation Commission

16 November 2016

Present: Sarah Albert, Kate Harper, Julie Hackbarth, Jan Waterman

Absent: Becky Buchanan, Charlie Cogbill, Mary Trerice **Guest:** Bram Towbin

7:20 Convened; Reviewed Agenda; Minutes of October meeting were approved

7:25 - Bram: Bram came to the meeting with two issues.

First, he relayed two requests from Pat Tibbetts. Mr. Tibbetts asked if hunting in the town forest could be restricted to archery only, and if he could be permitted to drive his ATV through the town forest a couple of times a year. According to the management plan, hunting is allowed, and ATVs aren't allowed (due to concerns about erosion and wetland damage). It is up to the Selectboard to make changes to the management plan. The second topic Bram presented was regarding the small, rapidly eroding property on Cameron Road which the town is in the process of buying. He asked for ideas about what could be done with the parcel once the buildings on the property are removed. After some discussion, a community garden space was suggested. Bram left at 7:50.

Annual Report Budget and Narrative: Drafts of each of these were reviewed. Sarah presented a proposed budget, which was approved. Jan presented a draft of the narrative, and will adjust it according to suggestions offered by the group.

Town Forest: Sarah and Jan cleared trails on the upper loop October 22. Sarah and George Springston walked the trails a week later with a GPS to note trail points. When George sends the points to Sarah, she will create a trail map for the kiosks and post the link to it on Front Porch Forum. The lower loop still needs to be cleared, and the wooden walkway in the wet area below the spring needs repairs. Also, some clearing on the upper loop still needs to be done with chainsaw and rakes. Work on the parking areas is complete except for one or two small adjustments on one of the gates.

Town Plan: Sarah will re-send the condensed list of CC responsibilities assigned in the plan. We will review and evaluate our progress on these goals at our next meeting.

Celebrating Plainfield's Natural Communities: We set a date for another evening public forum – 7 pm, January 10th. Jens Hilke will be the presenter. We will once again send postcard invitations to all landowners who gave Brett access to their land for the inventory, plus advertise on Front Porch Forum, with flyers, in the newspapers, etc.

Clay Hill: Brett suggested in email that the CC check out what appears to be a road cut into the bottom of Clay Hill, next to the vernal pools there. Jan will ask Charlie to follow up on this concern.

8:50 Adjourned **Next meeting:** December 21, at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Secretary