

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**20 April 2016**

**Present:** Sarah Albert, Becky Buchanan, Julie Hackbarth, Kate Harper, Mary Trerice, Jan Waterman

**Absent:** Charlie Cogbill

**Guests:** Dave Strong, and Sarah McShane (Resiliency Project coordinator) – 7:30

**7:15 Convene**

**Minutes** of March meeting were approved.

**Plant Sale:** Sarah reported. Friday 29<sup>th</sup> sale preparation will be at Bram's barn; two shifts, 3:30-5:00, and 5:00-6:30. Discussed volunteers to fill these shifts; Saturday morning shift already covered.

**Resiliency Project:** Dave presented Sarah McShane, who offered introductory information about her background. Then she and Dave described the project. It is funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, a federal, state and local initiative to restore and protect Lake Champlain and its surrounding watershed. Specifically, there is money in the grant for the town to address erosion issues at the Rec Field, and for local project representatives to attend a conference to address climate-related challenges on May 20-21 at Norwich University, hosted by Resilient Vermont. Sarah and Dave hope to have a "kickoff" for the local resiliency project at the Opera House, possibly on May 4<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for community involvement to increase education outreach and build our town's capacity for flood resiliency and mitigation. We brainstormed means of outreach, and a list of individuals and groups who might participate in the project. They asked us to please help spread the word. Interested parties can contact Sarah McShane at (207) 281-3848, or by email at [sarah.c.corey@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.c.corey@gmail.com).

**Green Up:** Becky reported that Delia has been doing a lot of good publicity and promotion for Green Up, including contacting people who gave us their email addresses during last year's event. Becky has been coordinating with Julie Shedd at Twinfield. Students will collect on Friday, and Chris Miksic will bring a trailer to the town garage them. On Saturday, Mike Russell will again provide a trailer for that day's collections. We discussed providing refreshments and filling shifts on Saturday.

**Town Forest:** Thanks, thanks, thanks to Sarah, and congratulations on the grant she wrote to create parking areas. Thanks also for her continued work to create a welcoming, user-friendly town forest. Until the grant period kicks in, we can't spend any money we want the grant to reimburse. Meanwhile, Sarah's managing the upcoming required archaeological assessment, and has twice worked on erosion control with Jan and Jessica Rubin. Sarah and Jan, along with Andy Robinson, Allen Clark, and Dave Strong, scoped out possible trails with John Morton on Saturday April 16. John will get back to us soon with his ideas and a proposal. Sarah distributed a list of feedback from our November 2015 walk in the forest, and noted some of the work we can do as volunteers: replace boards on puncheon and clear brush in wet area near lower parking lot, flag some prospective trails, flag and tend to invasives, etc.

**Natural Communities Inventory:** The April 4 public forum with Brett was a very good event – high attendance and an excellent presentation. Brett will deliver his final report, in electronic form and hard copy, by May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will post links to it on the town website and on Front Porch forum.

**Tree Inventory:** Sarah researched ordinances and policy regarding public trees, and brought information from the VT Urban and Community Forestry Program. Recommendations from them and our own inventory emphasize the creation of a town Tree Committee. We discussed ways we might accomplish this, public safety considerations, and a possible campaign to educate people about state and local regulations regarding trees in public spaces.

**Zoning Regulations:** The first hearing on the revisions, attended by Dan Currier (CVRPC), Jens Hilke (Fish and Wildlife) and many townspeople, was quite interesting and very civil. We will review the next draft when it becomes available.

**9:00 Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Secretary

Next meeting: May18, 7:15 p.m.