

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes 21 June 2017 – DRAFT

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Atchinson, Charlie Cogbill, Julie Hackbarth, Jan Waterman

Absent: Mary Trerice, Kim Sudol,

Meeting convened by Sarah at 7:20p.m

Minutes: Minutes from May meeting approved.

Media Manager: Delia is waiting to train Kim until decisions have been made about a new town website.

Open Meeting Workshop: Attorney Jim Barlow will present this workshop on August 1, at 5 pm, in the Old Schoolhouse Common. Jan and Sarah intend to attend.

Plant Sale Final report: Total sales \$3,363; expenses \$1,903; we have received our share of net, \$729, which has been allotted to the Tree Fund. After 20 years (!) Sarah is stepping down as Plainfield's lead on this project. Anne Miller, of Marshfield CC, will coordinate the sale again next year. After that, we will need to decide whether someone else from our CC will take on Sarah's role, or discontinue our involvement in the sale.

Town Forest update: Maple Hill School folks attached the maps Sarah created and finished installation of the kiosks. The "mailboxes" which will contain tri-fold flyers have yet to be hung on the kiosks. Gonyeau Rd. approach needs some work before we have a formal celebration. The Selectboard approved both proposals for memorials to Allen Soule; Daniel will care for the black walnut trees through the summer and will plant them in the fall, and Jacqueline is still gathering info about a stone marker. Shane Drinkwater planted trees at edge of parking area – 6 each white pine and sugar maple. Sarah, Jan and Jacqueline Soule took part in the Sunday June 11th workday, clearing trails and pulling buckthorn. We need more workdays to:

- continue management of buckthorn and other invasives,
- clear at least one stretch with a weed whacker,
- work on trails to the spring and the lower parking area,
- level water bars,
- provide stable stream crossing,
- monitor succession in the patch cut,
- keep an eye on the water level in the spring-fed pool,
- replace puncheon and clear brush from trail leading to lower parking area, and
- mark and sign trails.

A few of the items above were noted during a group outing in the fall of 2015. Sarah kept a list of all those suggestions, most of which have been accomplished. We discussed some possible dates for the next work party, and will hope for firm commitments from a few more folks next time.

BioFinder Workshop: Mary spoke to the presenter about scheduling a workshop for the local CCs. We need to provide guidance regarding when we want it – Summer? Fall? Weekdays? Evenings?

Tree Ordinance: Sarah attended a presentation about tree wardens and statutes and ordinances at the Arbor Day Conference, May 4. It's recommended that the first contact about street trees with property owners be positive and informational, describing the history of the Street Tree Program and offering resources for advice and help with maintenance. Jean Vissering's 2008 Plainfield Street Tree Management Plan could help generate a guidelines document for public distribution. We also discussed putting plaques on the trees the Town has planted.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 19th, at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Co-Chair and Secretary