

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of July 13, 2006 Meeting

Present: D. Grobe, J. Taylor, G. Wilder, J. Ptak

Minutes from the June 8, 2006 meeting were approved.

The findings of the meeting held June 11, 2006 at the Victor Hewes Memorial Field were discussed. The following recommendations were made; 1. the parking area and driveway that goes to the backstop need some fill and grading to improve the wet and muddy conditions (some work has already been done), 2. The Memorial Lilac Hedge needs some pruning, mulching, and one bush needs to be replaced. (M. Gibson has already done this), 3. The signs need painting. Present: D. Grobe, G. Wilder, J. Marsh, M. Gibson, J. Ptak, E. Brann.

Old Business

The literature display rack needs to be reviewed and updated at a future meeting.

KUA turf field – The Plainfield Planning Board has made its decision regarding the turf field, the concerns of the Conservation Commission were addressed by the Planning Board.

CC bylaws and job description – We discussed the need for by laws and job descriptions for the Conservation Commission. There are examples in the handbook and D. Grobe will request some from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for review at a future meeting.

CC Alternate member nominations – The letter from the Plainfield Selectman concerning our recent recommendations for CC members was reviewed.

Ballfield/Spencer Lot monitoring visit from state - This project has been postponed until Aug 16 due to the wet weather. (inserted in agenda at meeting)

~~Boundary Line project~~– J. Taylor reported that Chris Rollins is working on marking the boundary of the Townsend Lot.

Deleted: Boundary Line project – This project has been postponed until Aug 16 due to the wet weather. ¶

New Business

Deleted: Townsend Lot

Maintenance at Victor Hewes Memorial Park – G. Wilder will contact the town regarding obtaining material to improve parking and access at VHMP.

Trail Easement for bridge project – D. Grobe reported that a draft of the easement for the KUA land that is needed for the trail bridge is being worked on, the Town will hold the easement.

Conservation Award – The conservation award was presented to Ira Townsend at the 4th of July Parade.

Submitted by Judy Ptak

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes from September 14, 2006

Attendance: Margaret Gibson, David Grobe, Jeff Marsh, Judy Ptak, and Gordon Wilder.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05; minutes from the June 11 and July 13 meetings were accepted.

Old Business:

I CC Bylaws:

Chairman, David Grobe, suggested we should try to write Bylaws to help us run our meetings. Mr. Wilder offered having a work session at his house during the winter months to work on the Bylaws.

II Report on the status of the maintenance project at VHMP:

Misters Gordon and Mark Wilder, Grobe, Halleran, and the head of the Highway department met at the site to check damage and proposal of parking lot. Highway Dept. will dump extra fill in order to extend and even off one area for parking. The ruts to the side of the field created in May have been smoothed out by Mr. Wilder and the Hewes family. Summer weather conditions prevented the HD from delivering fill. The repair to the sign was suggested as a good scout project or community service project with children from the elementary school.

III CC Minutes:

In the future, once the CC minutes are approved they will be put on the town web page.

IV Select Board's letter regarding the trail/ footbridge project:

It was decided to suggest the Select Board clarify the second paragraph, word it as they had in the first paragraph, that 'rights not obligation to maintain bridge' be written in the statement. Mr. Grobe will take care of this.

V Nature Conservancy Request:

The NC is interested in purchasing a plot of land around Loomis Rd in Meriden. This property will border land they also want to protect in Lebanon. This area has richer soil thus producing different vegetation than we normally see in NH. The rock is different too, not granite. A motion was made to support this venture by donating \$5000. An open meeting for the town to vote on this will occur at the beginning of our next meeting in October.

New Business

I Intent to cut permits: reviewed.

II Wetland Permit: reviewed.

III Trails:

A. The work done at the Farnum Lot and Moulton trail by John Taylor of the UVLT is greatly appreciated.

B. The PCC supports the sharing of our trail maps with the multi-town trail map project.

IV Meadowsend Timber notification of road work on Morgan Hill conservation easement.

V Overlook access area across from Burnap's Island:

Mr. Halleran requested the CC to consider "maintaining a river overlook/access area" on River Road across from Burnap's Island. There were people "squatting" by the river this summer. It was thought if the CC cleaned up and maintained this area it could be used by towns' people. The CC did not see any advantage to doing this, as it is private property with no easement being offered and there is no place to park.

Other Business

At the June 8th CC meeting, Mr. Wilder presented the names of two new people who had expressed interest to him of becoming members of the CC: Christie Danen and Dan LaPan.

Mr. Grobe submitted their names to the S.B in June. Has there been any response regarding them? Mr. Grobe showed a letter from the S B that they would consider all applicants to the CC as they saw a need in the future.

Mail

Mail was informally reviewed: Workshops and requests for donations.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Gibson

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770

Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on October 12, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Members in attendance: David Grobe, Gordon Wilder, Eric Brann, Margaret Gibson, Judy Ptak, Jeff Marsh

Guests in attendance: David Moffatt representing The Nature Conservancy and two other non-residents?

A public hearing to accept comments on use of the Conservation Fund to make a donation to The Nature Conservancy to defray expenses associated with obtaining a conservation easement on the Loomis property on Loomis Road, Plainfield was held. David Moffatt presented The Nature Conservancy's plan to conserve the property. Members discussed this item at length and before further action would like to study the final easement before making a final decision on our donation at the November meeting.

The minutes of the September 14, 2006 meeting were approved as with minor spelling corrections.

Members discussed a wetland setback zoning ordinance being considered by the Planning Board. The proposed zoning change would be approved by voters at the polls just before town meeting.

Boundary marking project – The consensus of the meeting is to spend the money to correctly survey the Townsend Lot.

Discussed in length the Trail/Footbridge easement on KUA land adjacent to the Plainfield School. Judy Ptak moved to send the easement back to the Selectboard to clarify the liability on personal injury associated with the bridge that may result in lawsuits. It was voted unanimously, with the chair abstaining, that the Conservation Commission not take responsibility for maintenance and integrity of said bridge.

Adjourn at 10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Marsh

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770

Minutes from November 9, 2006

Members in Attendance: Eric Brann, David Grobe, Jeff Marsh, Jim Taylor, Gordon Wilder

Others in Attendance: Steve Halleran, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

The minutes from October 12, 2006, were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Loomis donation

With much discussion concerning the use of the Loomis property, the Commission members were disappointed to learn that the general public could lose the right to use the property for recreational purposes in the near or distant future. A motion was made and seconded that we do not donate any money to buy the development rights on this property. The motion was unanimously approved by those voting in attendance.

B. Wetland setback zoning ordinance

The Commission is anxiously awaiting a final draft from the Planning Board.

C. Boundary marking project

This seems to be an ongoing project. No activity this past month.

D. Trail/footbridge easement on KUA land adjacent to Plainfield School

Town Administrator, Steve Halleran, was kind to be at the Commission Meeting to explain the liability issue with the trail and footbridge leading from the Plainfield School. The liability does not fall onto any members of any Town Board. If there were a liability issue, it would become a Town of Plainfield issue. The Commission was very appreciative of the Selectboard's oversight to include the trail network on French's Ledges along with the footbridge with the easement from KUA for our future generations. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Selectboard's recommendation for the responsibility of the bridge and trail system to be under the authority of the Conservation Commission.

E. LCIP easement monitoring update, schedule walk at Morgan Hill

Scheduled walk for December 9, 2006. Chairman Grobe will send a notice of time and meeting place.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. Wetland Permit applications - No applications
2. Intent to Cut Notices - No applications

B. Annual budget request

It was voted to increase the annual budget request to \$2,600 per year to help defray costs such as youth camp, KUA bridge and trail system, conservation awards, etc.

C. Annual Report - to be worked on

D. Plainfield/Enfield boundary perambulated, Steve Halleran suggests Lebanon boundary needs doing, to be coordinated in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Home Hill Trail

A letter will be sent to the Selectboard suggesting that the trailhead and parking lot layout on Route 12A be finalized between the Town and the landowner (Brad Atwater) so the public could begin to use this system.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Wilder

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770

Minutes from December 14, 2006

Members in Attendance: David Grobe, Jeff Marsh, Jim Taylor, Gordon Wilder, Margaret Gibson, Judy Ptak.

Others in Attendance: John Taylor, Bill Knight, Kevin O'Leary

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

The minutes from November 9, 2006, were approved after a motion from Jim Taylor and second from Jeff Marsh, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Trails/Foot bridge

Bill Knight gave an update on the status of the bridge it is essentially done and looking good. Eric Cole will donate some Hemlock and Tamarack and Jim Fitch will saw in material for repairs and other stream crossings. They are short a few hundred dollars and would like the CC to use some money from the Conservation Fund as discussed at a previous meeting. They received a grant from the Byrne Foundation and thought that could endow the maintenance of the bridge and could decommission the bridge if it was to ever be decommissioned. John Taylor asked the CC if it might support the mapping and printing of an updated trail map for sale to the public at the Town Offices and Libraries. All supported the idea. Gordon Wilder moved that \$1,500 be removed from the Conservation Fund pursuant to a Public Hearing held on March 9, 2006, Jim Taylor seconded, all in favor. Mr. Knight would also like to recognize the effort of several businesses that donated machine time and materials including: LaValleys, Maks, Jim Fitch, Leo Maslan, Dan Lewis.

B. Boundary Marking Project

Nothing new to report. Discussion regarding another Town Meeting request to continue with project followed. Margaret Gibson moved to request another \$5,000 to be taken out of the Forest Maintenance Fund, Judy Ptak seconded, all in favor

C. Wetland Buffer Ordinance

Ordinance was emailed by the Town Administrator to CC. Comments are due in writing by Dec 18th and might be January 15, 2007 before it is back on the Planning Board Agenda. All are encouraged to attend hearing. Discussion followed regarding the details of the ordinance and how it would be administered. After much discussion that seemed to raise more questions than it answered Gordon Wilder made a motion to have Chairman Grobe write a letter to the Planning Board stating our questions and concerns and request another year to study this very important issue, Judy Ptak seconded, all in favor with Margaret Gibson abstaining.

D. Budget

Not submitted on time that leaves the CC level funded at \$2,500.

E. LCIP easement monitoring update, schedule walk at Morgan Hill

Chairman Grobe and Jeff Marsh completed the monitoring and reported that the new road looks good and that no easement violations were observed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Reports

1. Wetland Permit applications - No applications
2. Intent to Cut Notices - No applications

B. NH Audubon

Ned Swanberg has requested time at the January meeting and it was granted by the CC members.

C. Annual Report –

After failing miserably to delegate this important task, Chairman Grobe will once again work his magic pen to submit a concise and timely account of our 2006 activities.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mail

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Taylor