

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of Feb. 9, 2012

Members Present: Myra Ferguson, Ron Eberhardt, David Grobe, Judy Hallam, David Taylor

- Jordan Property: There's still hope funds can be obtained to carry out the agreement with the UVLT.

Minutes of Dec. meeting approved.

C.C. gathering in WRJ on 1/31-a review of the meeting's proceedings will be forwarded by Ron E. You should have received Ron's forwarded information by now.

4. West Clear-cut The Valley News did an article on it. No further information.
5. Logging operations in Hell Hollow There have been complaints about noise.
6. Shulman property The property has been donated to the town (subject to approval by Select Board). The C.C. has recommended the Select Board accept the donation. There will be some restrictions on its use-no hunting, no camping, and no fires. A hearing will be held at the Select Board's meeting on Feb. 15.
7. Forestry Workshop It will be June 9. A letter will be sent to homeowners with a minimum of 10 acres and will include the timber harvest factsheet and a notice about the workshop. Also, a notice will be in Plain Facts. An indoor site still has to be selected as well as the logging site. Ron and Myra will work on this. Refreshments will be served. Doug Miner and Jay Aube, State Forest Rangers, have offered to speak to town residents about clear cutting issues.
8. Class VI Roads Anne D. wants to get clarification from town officials on this issue. She asked that the Select Board have this topic on its March agenda.
9. George Koehler Trail - The parking lot has to be cleared. When that job has been done, a ceremony can be scheduled, preferably this spring.
10. Mapping Project There was a lengthy discussion of how to pay the cost (\$1600. a year). Shouldn't the Planning Board share the cost? Myra agreed to speak to the Planning Board and Steve Halloran about this.
11. Clean-Up Day David G. agreed to work on having a map at town and district meetings to sign people up.
12. Earth Day A special project needs to be selected at the March meeting. Suggested projects: pick a road that wasn't selected at town and/or district meeting and continue Clean-Up Day. Any other projects?
13. March Agenda a)web site update and additions, b)Class VI roads, c)mapping project, d)Earth Day, e)Forestry Workshop, f)Jordan Property

Submitted by Dave Taylor

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of March 8, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Bill Knight, Dave Taylor, Ron Eberhardt, Anne Donaghy, Judy Ptak.

All members approved adoption of the minutes of our February 9, 2012 meeting.

New Business:

- Save the Date! Saving Special Places: Sat. April 14 in Weare, NH, 8am-2:45pm.
- Anne gave quick report from UVTA signs forum Feb. 15th, Norwich VT. The CC will get in touch with UVTA for help/ideas with some new signs in our upcoming trail projects.
- Invasive species workshop with Doug Cygan, expert with NH Cooperative Extension. He prefers spring or summer. Myra will give him the option of joining us at our June 9 workshop on Snow Mountain land. Anne will check with Erhard Frost to see if okay with him.
- That CC winter activity that David Grobe suggested - next winter!

Old Business:

- Update on Forestry Workshop, June 9: Meet at Donaghy house: 295 Croydon Turnpike (yellow farmhouse on left as you crest top of hill). Start out indoors with darkened room for slideshow. Anne, Myra, Judy will provide light refreshments. Timber Fact worksheet to be mailed 6-8 weeks ahead of time, with second page flier about workshop location. Consider folding & taping rather than stuffing envelopes. Also put info. In PlainFacts May and June (Ron to do). Anne will make fliers to post at P.O.s, Deli Mart, libraries, also have on hand at March 17 Town Meeting.
- GIS mapping tools: Planning Board suggests sharing cost with us if we are going to be sharing this. \$895 total initial investment, no further costs for subscription or annual fees as it's a service of the Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Attaching the training piece to it brings cost to \$1350, which we will do, to make sure we all can use this investment. Purchasing this makes sense as the next step up technologically is a very expensive commercial system with expensive yearly maintenance fees.

** Judy Ptak moved that the CC pays \$675 (half the cost of the system plus half the cost of the training). Seconded by Dave Taylor. Vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

- West clear-cut: Some townspeople have asked if State is getting a "free pass" for their mistake? Little can be done now. At least with stumps left in place, erosion is minimized. No need so far for silt fence to protect the brook, but we will all continue watching it.

- Discussion of gates and bars of Class VI roads at next Selectboard meeting.

Anne to confirm with Steve H that this is on agenda.

** Confirmed - 7pm discussion at Selectboard meeting, Wed. April 4.** Spread the word! Possibility of some class VI roads in our town becoming Class A trails? In this case they could be gated and no vehicles allowed, except for landowners, and snowmobiles allowed in winter. This is a change in road that the state must agree to. None of us are sure at this point if recommendation for this action must come through a town's selectboard vs. majority of townspeople (Town Warrant Article). Anne feels this would be a good change for Goodwin Rd. which leads nowhere but to private roads/trails, and there is a high likelihood of vehicle abuse on Goodwin Rd. now that KUA has upgraded the Croydon Turnpike end.

Discussion to continue.

- Any suggestions for townwide projects for Greenup Week (April 14-21, with Earth Day April 22)? Contact David Grobe or Anne Donaghy.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Next CC meeting scheduled for Thurs. April 12, 2012.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of April 12, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Dave Taylor, Ron Eberhardt, Judy Ptak, Judy Hallam, David Grobe.

All members approved adoption of the minutes of our March 8, 2012 meeting.

The business of this meeting is to prepare the Timber Harvest Worksheet (and poster/flyer for June 9 “Selling Timber? Workshop” and “make-wise-choices” letter) notices for mailing.

There were brief discussions of other matters, but no decisions could be made at the time of this meeting. An email will follow this meeting to poll the commission for information to make those decisions at the May 10 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Myra Ferguson

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Next CC meeting scheduled for Thurs. May 10, 2012 at 7 pm.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 10, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7pm.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Ron Eberhardt, Anne Donaghy, David Grobe, Bill Knight

Approved adoption of minutes of our meeting April 12, 2012.

New Business:

- 3 new properties in our town possibly for conservation easements; funding potentially by aquatic resource mitigation fund which looks for specific mix of upland and wetland properties. Peg Merrens doing due diligence on these properties for now; will be need for matching funds.

- CC account balances: \$52,506 in our account; \$18,753 in forest account. 4K coming in by end of month; Sanborn parking lot work only \$800 so far.

- George Koehler trail ceremony: Need to walk trail with Plainfield Trailblazers, discuss right of way and public access with property owners along trail before it's signed and officially declared. Bill Knight will map it for us.

- Cleanup Project 2012 still to do - could it be Sanborn Road trailhead? Leo Maslan's scout troop has been volunteered. Possibly do this in conjunction with putting up kiosk and doing invasive plant workshop? All agreed that we will hire UVTA to do some signs for us with funds still in our Koehler account.

Possible work date June 16? Myra to talk with Leo Maslan on timing and with Helen Koehler on wording of memorial sign.

- Nighthawks: Walk along Snow Mountain ridge to look for nesting nighthawks, possibly Memorial Day weekend; Anne will send out email note on time of walk for any who wish to join. We'll notify Bird Club (David Grobe). Also will check with NH Audubon Society to see if any interest in helping us build nesting sites on Plainfield School roof, as nighthawks did nest there in early 90s prior to roof work.

- Energy Committee asking if CC will send letter of support for "midnight streetlight initiative" which proposes turning off streetlights in Plainfield Village after midnight to conserve energy. Lights in the village are PSNH and due for maintenance: if sensors are changed during routine maintenance the cost is \$6 per light vs. \$170. CC unanimously supports this initiative. David Grobe to write letter.

Old Business:

- July 10 invasive species workshop with Doug Cygan at KUA and we will advertise beyond our town, starting with Cornish Connect. We'll have a Saturday walk with Doug following July 10 workshop. Goal is to educate homeowners so they can go home and eradicate, or more realistically corral, any of these invasive species on their own properties.

- June 9 forestry workshop: fliers are out, all CC members urged to bring cookies or otherwise portable food with them that morning, Myra will provide drinking water in most environmentally sensitive way. Loomis land will be used for walkabout. Ron and Myra meeting with Karen on logistics on May 30.

- Myra and Anne gave short report on Class VI road hearing at April 4 Selectboard meeting: much discussion on unlocked gates with general consensus that they do help limit or at least slow traffic, selectboard asking for submission of gate designs, Anne to lead effort to move Goodwin Road from Class VI road to Class A Trail in next year.

Our next meeting is Thursday, June 14, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Meeting Minutes of Thurs. June 14, 2012

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Judy Ptak, Anne Donaghy, Bill Knight, Dave Taylor
(outdoors on such a lovely evening, thanks to Myra!)

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Unanimous approval of May 12, 2012 meeting minutes

New Business:

- All agreed to order free UNH Co-op Extension Habitat pamphlets, one on Lowland Spruce-Fir forests and the other on Hemlock forests, 100 of each if possible, to distribute in town. They're nicely done & educational.

- Clean-Up Day 2012 officially put off until spring 2013 due to scheduling conflicts.

- Nighthawks in town? None seen yet by Bill or Anne but June is nesting time. Anne still hopes to walk Snow Mountain ridge and will advertise to CC ahead of time, and also will try again to contact NH Audubon for possible assistance/guidance with re-establishing nesting sites on Plainfield School roof.

- George Koehler Trail Ceremony: Some delay in plans as one adjacent landowner doesn't want the trail on his land published on a map for general public (though public is welcome to use the trail). Bill to talk with other landowner Jim Townsend about portion of trail on his land, if possible to publish on map. Plan is still to have the sign done by UVTA memorializing the trail -- a few more particulars to work out (Bill and Myra both working on this). Hoping to have the ceremony in early Fall.

- June 20, 2012 Hearing with State representatives at 5:30pm at corner of Croydon Turnpike and Goodwin Road regarding State plans to upgrade 2000 feet of Goodwin Road in order to log in Annie Duncan forest.

Conservation Commission was invited to attend by Steve Halloran.

Discussed that in NH no one can be denied access to use of their land, however the town has the decision on whether or not a class VI road can be upgraded.

Old Business:

- Myra to write PlainFacts article on the June 9 Forestry Workshop. **Anyone who has photos from the day please send them to her ASAP**

All agreed it was a useful and very interesting workshop. At least 6 families from around town attended. We will do this workshop again. Thanks to all who worked to make this happen.

- The Invasive Species Workshop will be put off until 2013 due to scheduling conflicts.

Our next meeting will be Thurs. August 9.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

NO MEETINGS JULY AND AUGUST 2012

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380

Meriden NH 03770

pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Meeting Minutes Sept. 13, 2012

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, David Grobe, Bill Knight, Judy Ptak, Anne Donaghy, Ron Eberhardt

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

- (postponed approval of past Minutes for next meeting)

Old Business:

- George Koehler Ceremony: Aiming for mid October.

Other landowner, Jim Townsend, while welcoming people to use the trail on his property, also doesn't want the trail published on a map. We will only publish what's currently on our website map.

Need to do to make this happen:

1. Our website map needs upgrading. (Bill to work with Emily at Stone Mountain)
2. Commission UVTA to do sign. Sign will read: "The trails accessed from this trailhead were special walks for long-time Plainfield resident, George Koehler. His friends have dedicated this access point in his memory." (Myra, after Helen K. makes edits.)
3. Coordinate with town to get backhoe to help us plant the kiosk (David G and Bill)
4. Set date with Helen K (Dave T) and when date set, advertise around town (Myra, Anne)

- Invasive Species Workshop: Myra to pursue setting up a spring talk/workshop with Doug Cygan.

- Conservation easement progress on Bob Jordan and Des Hudson land - now it's down to 49 acres. UVLT has asked us to send letter to LCHIP saying we are behind this (a required part of their process) We do support this.

- Hanchett Brook area - we were also asked by UVLT to send our support for conservation of this parcel to LCHIP. Bill: a number of rare plant communities there, and also some rare insects. Worth protecting for this alone. Myra to ask UVLT for background info. on Hanchett Brook area.

- Class VI roads - where are we on this?

Look at Town policies and procedures regarding class VI roads - these should be public. Myra has been invited by Steve to the Town Office to look into these policies.

- is there a policy about landowners doing work on class VI roads?
- any policies in place for changing of class VI roads to class A trails?
- policy for gating class VI roads?

We do know state statute on class VI roads becoming class A trails - by way of a vote by the local legislative body (Town Meeting). Needs to be a Warrant Article preceding the meeting.

New Business:

- We have a place on our commission to fill, following Judy Hallam's resignation. By next meeting we will have some names to bring to the Selectboard as recommendation from CC.

We all send Judy Hallam our thanks for her participation on this Commission

- Farm ponds: Conservation Commission needs to sign off on wetlands permits, but not needed for dredging of farm ponds. Myra recently contacted by State about dredging for old Bellavance pond, only to have them call

back to say not necessary as this is a farm pond. (we did have an interesting discussion of definition of farm pond)

Our next meeting will be Thurs. Oct. 11
Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

NO MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2012

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380

Meriden NH 03770

pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Meeting Minutes Nov.8, 2012

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, David Grobe, David Taylor, Bill Knight, Anne Donaghy.

Meeting called to order by Myra at 7pm.

- Approved minutes of June 14, 2012 and Sept. 13, 2012 meetings.

Financial: 1) We've received an invoice for \$235.00 from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for our annual membership dues FY2013.

2) CC Budget for 2013 due Nov. 30 at Town Office. We will ask for level funding.

Old Business:

- George Koehler Ceremony: David Taylor spoke yesterday with Mrs. Koehler and reports she's ready any time. We have to postpone until we get the kiosk in the ground. Myra will talk w/Town Hwy Dept. about help, will get 3 possible dates from them for use of backhoe and will be back in touch with committee on possible dates.

- Invasive Species Workshop: Sometime in Spring 2013 when KUA students are on break; waiting on KUA to let us know their schedule and then we will schedule this workshop.

- Just received flier from Dept. of Forests & Recreation on Black Swallowwort ("dog strangling vine"), an invasive vine that we do have along Bloods Brook, behind Plainfield School.

- Class VI roads: Myra has sent pages of road policy to this committee, and we also have our own copy of "A Hard Road to Travel" at Town Office.

Possible role of CC with regards to Class VI roads? Town determines what it does with its Class VI roads; CC can make recommendations to Selectboard. Any recommendations from us will be transparent process with public hearings.

- Start by cataloging our town's class VI roads. Bill has all of them in GIS files. David Grobe will have list of them for us at our Dec. 13 meeting.

- CC will look at prospects for converting some of these Class VI roads to Class A Trails. Some criteria used to determine could be number of property owners along the road, connectivity of the road vs. dead-end, no exit road.

- Accepted resignation of Judy Hallam, reluctantly. Thanks, Judy, for your service!

- New members for Conservation Commission? Continue thinking. Put notice in PlainFacts.

- Monitoring: Forest Society needs report from Mud Pond (LCIP also needs that report). Mike Sutherland will do some of that walking and invited a partner from CC. UVLT also wants one for Benson Town Forest. David can send report for that. Morgan Hill was done last Oct. (Myra filed that)

- Website: Myra wants to get our collection of headings into PowerPoint so we can try to organize them, so we can get our website up and running. What structure do we want?

- Town XC Ski Festival at Plainfield School next Feb. (the Plainfield Pig Out): we'll do our "winter shrubs" walk/ski then for anyone interested.

- Do we want to give a 2012 Conservation Award?

Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

Next meeting is December 13, 2012.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of 12/13/12

Members Present: :Myra, David G., Ron, Judy, David T.

- Safety issues relating to logging on Goodwin Rd. and truck traffic on the road were discussed, No action.
- George Koehler Trailhead: Sign and kiosk are installed thanks to Bill Knight, David Grobe, Myra Ferguson and the Town Road Dept. Helen Koehler asked to have a sign on Columbus Jordan Rd. Bill Knight will make an appropriate sign. A ceremony to dedicate the trailhead in late April seems now to make sense. Helen will be consulted.
- Class VI Roads: A long discussion was held concerning the role of the Commission in having a Class VI Road designated a Class A Trail. What are the criteria? Should the Commission write a policy statement? Members agreed to begin the process of writing a policy that could be recommended to the Select Board. David Grobe agreed to contact the Association of State Conservation Commissions to see if it has something that would help us.
- New Member(s): Dave T. said he would contact one person he thought might be interested.
- C.C. Award: Some names were thrown out for discussion. By the February meeting we need a decision on this.
- Conservation Project: We need ideas. Also, we need to schedule the invasive species workshop.
- Public Events: Hike on Home Hill Trail in August? Canoe trip?
- Next Meeting:Feb.14

Adjourned at 8:15