

JANUARY

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Meeting Date: Jan. 9, 2014.

Attending: M. Ferguson, R. Eberhardt, B. Knight, D. Taylor, A. Donaghy

Unanimously approved minutes from December meeting.

Monitoring Reports: Walker Farm #1 will be done before Dec. 31, 2014. We still need a volunteer for Walker Farm #2 for 2014. Mud Pond to be done in 2014. Myra sent a sample report out to us all to help give idea of how straightforward the process is. Most important thing is to talk with the landowner.

Map correction still in process. Bill K. has the GPS coordinates of the trails that require change. He will meet with the “mappers” soon to get the correct trail markings on the map. We must replace the outdated maps at the school’s trailhead, the Walker Trail trailhead (Sanborn Road) and the Plainfield website.

Theoretical discussion: Is a deck cantilevered over a brook in violation of the 50 foot zone? How do we stand on this? Technically landowner should get DES permission. Our first recommendation, if asked, would be to tell landowner to check with DES first.

US Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction for any navigable waterway and all its tributaries, and delegates this jurisdiction to DES. (Definition of tributary – must have permanent flow, so a seasonal stream does not qualify)

Discussion of new parking pad off Brook Rd. adjacent to Blood’s Brook. Agricultural use (sugaring). State law: Agriculture and Forestry are exempt from wetland and many other land use regulations. However, they do have BMPs (Best Management Practices) to be followed.

Progress Report of Class VI Road Project. Myra mentioned it in our Town Report.

We’ll begin with an index of the Class VI roads, and will have a copy of Howard Zea’s map on first page.

- Criteria to be covered for each road: **(put each criteria in bold, parentheses)** For example: **(Historical).....**
- Photos should be digital.
- The book will reside at the Town Office.

Myra’s draft Town Report reviewed.

- We propose one small change - “Understanding the Legal Ramifications of Conservation Easement Deeds.”
- It advertises our House Calls, Class VI Road Projects, importance of whole community understanding legal ramifications of conservation easements.

Still thinking ahead to Ladyslipper Walk in April (Dave T will get notice in PlainFacts).

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next meeting Feb. 13, 2014

Minutes submitted by Anne Donaghy

FEBRUARY

NO MEETING

MARCH

PLAINFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2014

Members present: M. Ferguson, J. Ptak, D. Grobe, D. Taylor Alternate: H. Koehler

1. Minutes of Jan. 9, 2014 approved.
2. Arbogast pond reclamation: this project on Houser Lane (Coreyville off of Brook Road) was designed by Jim Kennedy and design plans have been submitted. After review of the design plans the commission gave its approval and Myra will sign off indicating the commission's approval.
3. Walker Farm #2: this property still needs to be inspected and we need a volunteer monitor.
4. House Calls: Myra announced the availability of this service at District Meeting by commission members and so far one request has been received. The display for Clean-Up Day and House Calls will be announced on the town's website and posted in the Town Office.
5. Lady Slipper Walk: Dave T. will be leading the walk in mid-May along Sugar Hill Road. He's also doing the advertising of it.
6. Hanchetts Brook, Black Hill Forest and Sky Ranch Pond (buffer) Project: this 3-in-1 project has been proposed for easement purchase and a combination of financial sources has been put together by Upper Valley Land Trust, including the town of Plainfield. The project should be complete at the end of April 2014. The project totals 397.4 acres plus the donated, widened buffer around already-conserved Sky Ranch Pond (within the boundaries of the UVLT-conserved Plainfield Cider Orchard).
 - a. The PCC has been asked for a \$32,000 donation which is 5% of the total cost of approximately \$586,000 project. The \$32,160 represents "earnest money" to indicate the commission's and the town's interest in protecting the two properties and the extended buffer. By a unanimous vote the commission gave its approval to contributing the \$32,000 toward the purchase.
 - b. The PCC entered into an extensive discussion about public access to private land being conserved using public monies. Some felt that the degree of public access to a private project should reflect the percentage of the public donation to the entire cost of the project (i.e., pro rata). Others felt that no matter the percentage, public access to the total property is expected. Of course there are other options possible between these two extremes. And, not all commissioners (3 absent) were in attendance to offer their opinion.

This discussion has occurred during previous commission discussions and will go on in the future.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

8. Next meeting is April 10, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Taylor

NOTE: After the meeting adjourned Myra F. looked through the materials supplied for this meeting and found a bullet that said, "Public access for recreation will be protected through the conservation easements" in the UVLT document titled *Budget Summary & Conservation Benefits*. Myra apologizes for this omission and its lateness.

APRIL

Plainfield Conservation Commission

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Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on April 10, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Bill Knight, Ron Eberhardt, David Grobe; alternates Helen Koehler and Vicki Ramos-Glew

Guests in attendance: Bob Jordan, Jerry Doolittle

1) The minutes of the March 20, 2014 meeting were briefly discussed then tabled for lack of a quorum of those in attendance on that date. Grobe suggested striking the phrase "earnest money" so that that sentence of the easement project discussion would read "The \$32,160 indicates the commission's and the town's interest in protecting the two properties and the extended buffer."

2) New Business

A. Bob Jordan gave a presentation on efforts to preserve the historic barn on his property and outlined the support that would be necessary for this to be accomplished. Members were in agreement that the commission could assist by lobbying the town and highway department for drainage changes that could reduce the damage caused by stormwater runoff. The Commission decided to hold a site visit at the start of the next meeting (May 8, 2014) at the property to look this over, with the road agent invited. Members stopped short of considering any financial contribution, and decided to seek a legal opinion on whether this would be a legal use of the conservation fund.

B. Jerry Doolittle gave background and solicited input from the Commission on the Meriden Bird Club's plan to obtain advice on forest management at the Club's Bird Sanctuary from Dode Gladders - the UNH Cooperative Extension forester in Sullivan

County. The Commission encouraged this approach and offered several other suggestions.

C Chairman Ferguson reminded members that we still need a volunteer to monitor the Walker #2 conservation easement currently owned by Lessor.

D. Chairman Ferguson presented a new and improved roadside cleanup program – Greenup Month – which she is supporting with her school clerk pay. The program will now include a \$50 cash prize for the person who collects the most full bags of roadside trash.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

3) Old Business

4) Other Business

5) Mail

6) Next Conservation Commission meeting – agenda planning

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

MAY

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 8, 2014

Members Present: M. Ferguson, J. Ptak, D. Grobe, B. Knight, H. Koehler, D. Taylor

9. Minutes of 3/20 and 4/10 approved.
2. Jordan Barn: After some discussion the group felt the request for money to fix the barn was not something the C.C. could consider. We might recommend that a request could be directed to other agencies. David Grobe offered to send a letter to Bob Jordan informing him of the Commission's decision and suggesting he contact the town road agent about repairs to the road near the barn.
3. Bird Sanctuary Forest Management Plan: The Commission supports the idea. We can give advice, direct the Sanctuary Board to helpful people, organizations, etc.
4. Monitoring: a) Walker Farm #2 = still needs a volunteer. Bill Knight pointed out we don't absolutely have to make a written report on the property.

b)Mud Pond-David Grobe and David Taylor will walk this property as soon as they can.

5. Clean Up Projects:Some roads are cleaned up by residents of those roads. No award has been given out for most trash. \$200. remains in the fund for the award.
6. Invasive Species House Calls:Two out of four requests have been fulfilled. David Taylor will take care of one. Garlic mustared continues to be of considerable concern.
7. Class VI Roads:There are still several roads to be written up. Photos are needed as well.
8. Next Meeting:June 12
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Dave Taylor

**JUNE
NO MEETING**

**JULY
NO MEETING**

**AUGUST
NO MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER
NO MEETING**

**OCTOBER
NO MEETING**

NOVEMBER

NO MEETING

DECEMBER
NO MEETING