

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770

Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on January 11, 2007
Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Members in attendance: Jeff Marsh, Jim Taylor, David Grobe, Judy Ptak, Gordon Wilder, Eric Brann, (Margaret Gibson absent)

Guests in attendance: Ned Swanberg

- 1) The minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting were approved with minor corrections.
- 2) Old Business
 - A) Wetland buffer zoning proposal – The conservation commission discussed the responses from individual members of the planning board to our December 31, 2006 letter to the planning board (attached in file) outlining concerns expressed at our December meeting. No additional concerns or suggestions for improving the ordinance were identified.
- 3) New Business
 - A) No wetland permit applications or intent to cut notices were reviewed
 - B) Annual plan of work – not yet revised for 2007
 - C) Conservation camp – The conservation commission supports reviving our tradition of sponsoring one or two kids to attend conservation camp, using environmental education funds in our budget. Steps will be taken to publicize and promote this opportunity.
 - D) NH Association of Conservation Commission membership dues notice – approved for payment
- 4) Other Business
 - A) Ned Swanberg of NH Audubon – Upper Valley Program attended to inform us of that organization's conservation services and to explore how it might assist us with projects.
- 5) Mail – made available for review
- 6) Adjourn at 9:30

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2007**

Meeting began: 7:10pm

Attendance: Dave Grobe, Jim Taylor, Judy Ptak, Gordon Wilder, Margaret Gibson, Jeff Marsh.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wetland Buffer Zoning:

Establish a working committee made up of members from all Town boards to help the Planning Board on the Wetland Buffer Zoning proposal.
May include non board members if need.

Dave has sent a letter to Steve Halleran to update him on the proposal to tidy up loose ends on the Benson Town Forest Easement by the Upper Valley Land Trust.

Green Up Day:

Dave will write an article for the town report. Jim Taylor will design a Poster for Town Meeting which will include information and sign up. Green Up Week is April 15- April 19, 2007.

Plainfield Conservation Award:

The CC has chosen a Plainfield resident to receive the Plainfield Conservation Award which will be presented at Town Meeting in March.

Charter Equestrian School:

An invitation will be sent to the Board members of the Charter Equestrian School to come to the next CC meeting to discuss their land ideas.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes from 3-8-07

Meeting was called to order at 7:10, members in attendance: Eric Brann, Margaret Gibson, David Grobe, Jeff Marsh, Judy Ptak. (absent: Jim Taylor, Peanut Wilder).

Minutes from January and February meeting were approved.

Old Business:

A) Annual Plan of Work: David Grobe presented the Annual Plan of Work form he has been working on for several weeks. He briefly described how it would work and listed potential projects the CC is concentrating on, suggesting that new projects can be added as they come up. Everyone agreed he has done a nice job, and it is appreciated.

B) Wetland Buffer Zoning proposal: Mr. Grobe had attended the 3-7-07 Selectman's meeting and reported on it. During the meeting, Planning, Zoning and Select boards decided they would not like to participate in an Ad Hoc meeting/s to explore the best Wetland Buffer ordinance for the town. This does not mean the CC can't if we choose to. At last month's CC meeting, it was suggested a group of interested citizens could form a committee for this purpose.

C) Plainfield Conservation Award: Mr. Grobe presented the document. The meeting approved the \$10 fee, and Mr. Marsh will take care of having it framed by the Town Meeting.

D) Sandy Horne: Mute point as the property was purchased by someone else.

New Business:

A) Committee Reports:

a. Wetland Permits: Mercier on Jordan Rd. The engineers plans we studied. Mr. Grobe is going to make sure the Mercier's have the "Project Specific Booklet" which can be downloaded.

b. Intent to Cut Notices: none.

c.

B) New Town owned property:

New land has been donated to the town adjoining the gravel pit. It was noted the Select Board did not follow their "Property Donation Policy" in acquiring this property.

C) Jeremy Turner:

Forrester, Jeremy Turner has suggested a conservation project between Grantham and Plainfield.

Action: Mr. Grobe will communicate the CC thinks it's a good idea and would like to continue to be informed.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Gibson

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes from 4-12-07

Meeting was called to order at 7:20, members in attendance: Eric Brann, Margaret Gibson, David Grobe, Peanut Wilder. (Absent: Jeff Marsh, Judy Ptak, Jim Taylor).

Minutes from March meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- A) *Green up Week*: Sign up sheet for cleaning up certain streets is in the Meriden Town Hall. Clean up week is next week, weather permitting.
- B) *Plainfield Conservation Award*: Mr. Grobe presented the award during Town Meeting to Ruth Ann Wheeler. A picture and article followed in the Plainfacts newspaper. Mr. Marsh took care of the framing which cost \$72.00. He needs to be reimbursed.

New Business:

- A) *Committee Reports*:
 - a. Wetland Permits: none.
 - b. Intent to Cut Notices: none.
- B) *Erosion of banking along River Road*: Apparently a large chunk of the banking along river road has slipped into the river and another chunk has sunk. Mr. Halleran suggested that the CC might be interested in doing some planting once the area has been shored up. There was no decision made on this suggestion since we don't know if the land is privately owned, nor what sort of revetment will be done.
- C) *VHMP*:
 - a. It's time once again for the mowing contract to be handed out. Williams has already contacted the CC and offered to cut again at the same price as last year. Mr. Wilder suggested the contract be put up for bid.
 - b. The repair of the sign and the parking lot will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Other Business:

- A) *Conservation Planning*: General discussion of how we want to proceed to protect land in town. Do we want to value farm land over wilderness? It was

decided we should do Natural Resource Planning in order to come up with priorities of types of land we would like to protect.

- B) *Thank you letter to Byrne Foundation:* The Byrne Foundation made a donation of \$5000 to the bridge project. Mr. Grobe co-signed a thank you letter written by John Taylor for the Plainfield Trail Blazers.

Mail was reviewed. Mr. Brann took a flyer that will be put up at the Plainfield school regarding a summer seminar for an educator.

Meeting Adjourned 8:25.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Gibson

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of May 10, 2007 Meeting

Present: D. Grobe, J. Marsh, M. Gibson, G. Wilder, E. Brann, J. Ptak

Minutes from April meeting approved with minor corrections from D. Grobe.

Bids for mowing Victor Hewes Memorial Park – Two bids were received for mowing the field, these were reviewed and the contract will be offered to Tom Williams who had the lowest bid. The possibility of extending the contract for 3 years was discussed.

Bylaws – Discussed if the members felt the bylaws should include guidelines or a protocol for interaction with the public when conducting official conservation commission business. No decision was reached.

Updates:

Waiting for a status report from Jim Taylor on the Townsend Lot boundary marking being done by Chris Rollins.

Waiting for an update on the Rutgers Conservation Project

A sign is needed for one of the memorial lilacs

Committee reports – none.

Intent-to-cut notices – none.

Wetland permits – none.

Victor Hewes Memorial Park – Discussed issues related to the parking area, access road and signs at the field. The June meeting will be held at the Park to review the area and plan for improvements.

Storm damage on town land – Need to survey the town owned land to determine how much damage occurred during the recent wind storms. G. Wilder & J. Marsh will check on the Spencer lot. Work is being done to get the trails cleared.

Expired term - Jim Taylor's term has expired. He will not be renewing his appointment. This leaves a vacancy on the commission. We will ask the selectboard to appoint a new member.

Preambulation of the Plainfield/Grantham boundary will be occurring soon.

Reviewed mail.

Submitted by
Judy Ptak

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of CC meeting on July 12, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members in attendance: Bill Knight, Judy Ptak, Peanut Wilder, Eric Brann and Jeff Marsh.

The minutes of June were discussed as none taken due to meeting taking place at the Victor Hewes Memorial Park.

Old Business:

Discussion on Nate Cass erosion problem. CC still trying to find new avenues to help him fix fields and brook.

New Business:

Carla Chaffee spoke to the CC on behalf of the Upper Valley Housing Commission. She brought a questionnaire for the members to fill out on their concerns on local housing and land use issues. The group discussed filling out the questionnaire as a group.

Other Business:

Unanimous decision to re-elect Dave Grobe as chairman.

Unanimous decision to elect Bill Knight as Vice Chairman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Marsh

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770

Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on August 9, 2007
Meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM.

Members in attendance: David Grobe, Gordon Wilder, Judy Ptak, Margaret Gibson, Jeff Marsh
Guests in attendance: None

1) The minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting had not been distributed, so approval was tabled until September.

2) Old Business

- A) July agenda items reviewed
- B) Boundary marking project – progress report from surveyor acknowledged, next step(s) not discussed
- C) Mercier wetland crossing discussed – CC members agreed that their compliance with wetland permitting and construction rules should be recognized

3) New Business

- A) No wetland permit applications or Intent-to-cut notices reviewed
- B) Karyn Swett wetland question (see attached email) discussed – CC members surmised that water supply and other conditions of her pond may be marginal anyway, thought she should discuss the situation with her neighbor

4) Other Business

- A) Gordon Wilder expressed difficulty of expecting residents to comply with wetland permitting and regulations when town doesn't always comply, CC members agreed that we should request town lead by example in this area

5) Mail

6) Adjourn at 8:30

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770

Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on September 13, 2007
Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members in attendance: David Grobe, Gordon Wilder, Bill Knight, Jeff Marsh, Judy Ptak
Guests in attendance: Anne Donaghy

- 1) The minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted. The minutes of the August 9, 2007 meeting were approved pending write up as discussed.
- 2) Old Business
 - A) Victor Hewes Memorial Park parking area – curb cuts approved with conditions by NH Department of Transportation, Gordon and Bill will obtain ballpark estimates as next step
 - B) CC members requested current draft of proposed wetland setback/buffer zoning changes
- 3) New Business
 - A) Status update on Town of Plainfield and Plainfield Elementary School wetland permit applications
 - B) No further comment for Planning Board review of Kimball Union Academy's status meeting turf field site plan conditions
 - C) Landowner concerns regarding OHRV, specifically 4-wheel drive trucks, damage to private trails and class six roads was discussed. Various strategies for limiting this type of damage were debated. The CC will make a recommendation to the Selectmen after researching legalities and options and holding further discussion.
- 4) Other Business
 - A) Approved purchasing "Landscaping at the Water's Edge" publication to be made available to residents in the literature display rack at the town office
- 5) Mail
- 6) Next Conservation Commission meeting – agenda planning not discussed due to lateness of the hour
- 7) Adjourn at 9:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

**Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2007**

Attendance:

Dave Grobe, Eric Brann, Judy Ptak, Gordon Wilder and Jeff Marsh.

Approved the minutes from the September 13, 2007 meeting.

Old Business:

A) Discussed Off-road vehicles driving on class 6 roads, talked about having permits issued, longer trail closing and weight limits.

Eric Brann will research information on patrolling class 6 roads and trails, info may be available from 2 other towns.

B) The conservation commission will draft a letter to the Select board asking to over see the usage of town owned trails and permission for non resident usage.

C) The Mystery trail remains a mystery. Bill Knight feels limited use will not damage this trail.

D) Victor Hewes Memorial Park:

Discussed construction of new parking lot:

\$2500.00 for machine time only and town to provide gravel.

\$6800 - \$7000 for purchase of gravel from other source, not provided by town.

Dave to explore grants for this project.

New Business:

A public hearing on the parking lot project will be at the November CC meeting. If time allows will discuss donated monies for trail upgrades/ new trails.

Adjourned: 8:30 PM

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2007

Attendance: Dave Grobe, Gordon Wilder, Bill Knight, Eric Brann, Muffy Gibson and Jeff Marsh.

Meeting began: 7:02PM

1) Approved October Meeting minutes.

OLD Business:

A) Victor Hewes Memorial Park parking lot project

Bill Knight spoke with Ken Stocker about the gravel; gravel will be available from the town pit at no cost along with the finish grading. The CC will need to hire a dump truck to move the gravel from the pit to the field. The appropriation of \$7000 will stay but the actual cost of project may be under \$5000, this will be dependant on the number of volunteers.

B) Class 6 road usages

More discussion on the usage of class 6 roads by off-road vehicles looks like it will be never ending issue.

C) River Road project

Town of Plainfield is applying for a wetlands permit to continue the project.

D) Discussion on Home Hill public hiking trail and parking lot

Hoping to fix the problem with the parking lot and trail usage by spring. Dave will draft a letter to the selectman about the public use of the trail and parking lot, which is being opposed by the land owner.

New Business

Myra Ferguson is planning on donating the development right on their 346 acre farm on True rd, Myra talked to the CC about sharing the cost. Will need further discussion once the final draft of the easement has been studied.

Trail Fund has available balance of \$2000.00 (in addition to \$5000.00 amount reserved for bridge maintenance). \$1000.00 of the remaining balance will be spent on the Kiosk with map holders which will be installed at trail head.

Budget for 2008 to be level funded.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30PM