

# Plainfield Conservation Commission

## Minutes from 1-10-08

Meeting was called to order at 7:00: Margaret Gibson, David Grobe, Bill Knight, , Jeff Marsh, Judy Ptak, Gordon Wilder

Minutes from November 2007 meeting were approved.

### Old Business:

- A) *Easement Monitoring*: Walker Farm (Bill Knight), Benson Forest (David Grobe), Mud Pond (Mike Sutherland) Morgan Hill (Eric Brann).
- B) *Ferguson's Request*: The Fergusons have suggested the CC consider using CC funds to assist property owners in conserving their land. The CC felt they would only do this if the land had public access.
- C) *Boundary Line Project*: Chris Rollins has not finished surveying the Townsend lot yet and hasn't been paid. The question presented was should the CC approach the town to vote for more money to be put in the Forrest Maintenance Fund. It was decided to not pursue this.
- D) *Home Hill Parking Lot*: A letter still needs to be sent to the Landowner, Brad Atwater about this. Action: Dave Grobe will take care of this.

### New Business:

- A) *Intent to Cut*: There was one from Dave Smith for the Fergusons.
- B) *Wetland Permits*: There were none. Although in the November meeting notes, it stated the Town was going to apply for one for their River Road Banking Project. Does anyone know if this was done?
- C) *Wood Chip Pile in Wetland on Bonner Rd*: Who is doing this? And is it legal to chip in a wetland? Bill Knight and Muffy Gibson will research this.
- D) *N.H Ass. Conservation Commission*: Pay the \$200 invoice.
- E) *Trail/Bridge Fund*: Should the CC be maintaining the Trail Bridge Fund. The CC had originally accepted donations for this fund so donors could get a tax break. However, since this was initially done the State has said it is illegal and should be part of the town's business. Right now a group is trying to set up a nonprofit organization to accept donations for trail and bridge work.

F) *Conservation Award*: Peanut Wilder suggested 2 people to consider.

G) *CC Camp Fund*: since we've had no response posting this information at the school and in the paper this is being taken off the "Plan of Work".

H)

### **Other Business:**

A) *Class 6 Road Protection Measures*: General discussion of how/if we want to proceed to protect the town's class 6 roads. No conclusion.

B) *Should CC have it's own Email on the town Website*: Divided opinions.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30

Minutes submitted by Margaret Gibson

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**February 14, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:** Dave Grobe, Judy Ptak, Eric Brann, Jeff Marsh

Approved January 2008 minutes

**OLD Business:**

Update, a committee may be forming a study group on Class VI roads and their protection.

**NEW Business:**

Formation of a conservation planning subcommittee was proposed  
Conservation Fund update - \$25,565 to be deposited, new balance (including deduction for \$1500 donation to the Townsend Bridge and Trail Fund) will be approximately \$110,229.

**OTHER Business:**

The Conservation Award will be presented to Julian Bellavance at the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

The Conservation Committee will have the Natural Resource Inventory maps at town meeting on March 15, 2008

A sign up sheet for Green Up Day will be at the meeting as well.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:22pm

## Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770

**Minutes** of the Conservation Commission meeting held on March 13, 2008  
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Members in attendance: Gordon Wilder, Eric Brann, Jeff Marsh, Bill Knight, Dave Grobe  
Guests in attendance: Mike Sutherland

1) The minutes of the February 14, 2008 meeting were approved with addition of information updates from agenda.

### 2) Old Business

A) Easement monitoring forms for the Benson Town Forest and Mud Pond properties have been returned to the Conservation Land Stewardship Program at the state Office of Energy and Planning. Walker Farm report and scheduling the Morgan Hill monitoring visit are still needed.

B) 4H camp info has arrived

C) Victor Hewes Memorial Park update will be available at the April meeting

D) Action on kiosk for Townsend trail system upcoming.

E) Home Hill trailhead parking area – specific request for action by selectmen clarified, see attached letter

F) Update on Benson Town Forest invasive species control – forester and contractor have agreed to re-treat areas to control buckthorn and other invasive species

G) Conservation Award – arrangements have been made for framing

### 3) New Business

#### A) Committee Reports

1) Wetland Permit applications – Marcus Hampers application to construct a pond project at his Eaton Road property (Tax Map/Lot# 227 / 15) was discussed. A favorable letter will be sent to NH Department of Environmental Services.

2) Intent-to-Cut notices - none

B) Trail meeting – Upper Valley Trail Alliance requests CC representative to attend inter-town trail planning meeting, flyer available

C) UVTA can possibly help out with trail map update

D) Conservation Commission members, while desiring public involvement in our meetings and projects, were cool to a suggestion by Dennis Girouard that he audiotape CC meetings for posting on a website

E) At the opening of this meeting, Mike Sutherland presented phase one of the Natural Resource Inventory. Discussion followed and Mike encouraged the Conservation Commission to identify and pursue “next steps.”

### 4) Other Business

5) Mail reviewed and disposed of as appropriate

6) Next Conservation Commission meeting – agenda planning

7) Meeting adjourned at 9:30

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**  
**PO Box 380**  
**Meriden NH 03770**

March 31, 2008

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Plainfield  
PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770

Re: Development of Home Hill trailhead parking

Dear Selectmen,

During the initial application for subdivision of the so-called Home Hill Estates and a subsequent revision of the original plan, a public trail over Home Hill, including at least one parking area, was offered by the applicant and accepted by the Planning Board as a condition of approval. Soon after the revision, the Plainfield Trailblazers held several work days when a diverse group of Plainfield residents participated in clearing, putting up signs, and making other necessary improvements to the trail.

Although the Conservation Commission has provided some support to the Plainfield Trailblazers, we did not at that time assume responsibility for construction of the trailhead parking. (We continue to debate where our role managing town-owned property for multiple uses ends and administering recreational activity begins. We seem to have inherited a fair bit of the latter.) Before it was determined who would initiate construction and how it would be paid for, the adjoining lots adjacent to the trail head and parking area were purchased from the developer.

The new landowner expressed a variety of concerns regarding the approved trail uses along his boundaries, and also completed some site work which could conflict with those uses. Whether or not the landowner was attempting to impose new conditions upon those uses, the Trailblazers group recognized that it was not its role to negotiate or enforce the arrangement, and has since avoided further development of the trail and parking.

About two years ago, The Conservation Commission held a public hearing about a proposed donation from the Conservation Fund to the Townsend Bridge and Trail Fund. Later that year we authorized a donation, \$500 of which was earmarked to produce an updated trail map. The Home Hill trailhead parking was casually mentioned as a feature that should be included in a trail map update. More recently, we had a discussion about possible uses for the surplus remaining in the

Bridge and Trail Fund. The November agenda read, "Discuss possible uses of Trail Fund monies." There was some discussion about uses for the funds on the Plainfield side of town, such as construction of the trail head parking. Ultimately, we agreed that the Bridge and Trail Fund donations should probably not be siphoned off to another part of town, and decided to purchase a kiosk for those trails. The minutes of that meeting read, "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."

While trailhead parking has not been a focus of the Conservation Commission, the fact that it has come up periodically has caught our eye as an issue that should be resolved. We suggest that town government, with the Board of Selectmen facilitating as necessary, get behind and implement the plan for the benefit of our residents.

We understand that funding is not likely to be found in the current budget. The Bridge and Trail Fund would be one option available to the Selectmen. In addition to the aforementioned \$500 for a trail map update, the Conservation Commission put \$1000 in the fund. Since sufficient funds were raised independently of this donation, there might not be much objection to diverting up to that amount if it is still available. The Conservation Fund might be another source available to the town in the current fiscal year, contingent on agreement of the Conservation Commission and a public hearing. Other than budgeting for this project next year, another "next year" option would be to appropriate the necessary funds from the Land Use Change Tax monies in a warrant article, before those are returned to the General Fund.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You,

David Grobe, Chair  
Plainfield Conservation Commission

## Plainfield Conservation Commission Minutes April 10, 2008

In attendance: Margaret Gibson, David Grobe, Judy Hallam, Bill Knight, Jeff Marsh, Gordon Wilder

Meeting was called to order at 7:10.

March minutes were approved.

### Old Business:

1.) Easement Monitoring on conserved land, stewardship Program :

*Benson Town Forest*

*Walker Farm: Bill Knight*

*Morgan Hill*

*Mud Pond: Mike Sutherland*

Steve Walker wants to come up and review with Conservation Commission. David will contact him and set up a time.

2.) Victor Hewes Memorial Park: Peanut has reviewed with several contractors the work that has to be done. He suggests that the Selectboard vote on the choice of contractor before our May meeting to not delay the work any longer.

3.) Kiosks: Upper Valley Trail Alliance has made a deal to purchase several at a reduced cost. We voted and approved to purchase two, one for the Bridge behind the school and one for Home Hill.

4.) Home Hill trailhead parking: Select Board meeting with the landowner on 4/16/08 regarding this issue. Bill Knight will attend the meeting.

5.) Freeman Road side of the above trail. Signs about the trail have been taken down. David will research who took these down.

6.) PCC email address. How it will work and who can access it.

### New Business:

1.) Wetland Permits: none. Inquiry from Randy MacDonald who wants to build some swales in his field. Peanut, Jeff and David will call and set up a time to meet with him.

2.) Bridge Trail Easement monitoring: a template will be created for an annual report to be sent to the Selectboard:

Condition of the Bridge

rails

deck

visual structure

erosion around abutments

Condition of the trails

3.) Election of Officers: will remain the same

**Other Business:**

Web Page: discussion on how to enhance and personalize the CC web page. Judy Hallam volunteered to work with Mary Lou Sutherland, the webmaster, on designing the page with pictures of open spaces in Plainfield and upcoming events and information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

# Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770

Plainfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes May 2008

In attendance: Margaret Gibson, David Grobe, Judy Hallam, Bill Knight, Jeff Marsh, Gordon Wilder

Meeting was called to order at 7:10.

April minutes were approved with a few corrections.

Old Business:

- 1.) Easement Monitoring on conserved land, stewardship Program :
  - Benson's Forest
  - Walker Farm: Bill Knight
  - Morgan Hill
  - Mud Pond: Mike Sutherland
  - See agenda

1. Victor Hewes Memorial Park:

Porta-potty: annual question of why the Conscom pays for this at the park rather than the Recreation Department. After much discussion, it was decided to research the advisability of continuing to do this. The deed can be researched at [N.H.deeds.com](http://N.H.deeds.com) to see if there is any mention of the CC being involved to maintain the playing field.

Kevin Mac is the contractor doing the parking lot which CC did pay for.

Remaking and repositioning of the sign was discussed. Bill Knight offered to do it.

2. Kiosks: the question of whether or not the ones we have purchased through the Upper Valley Trail Alliance are over kill in carpentry to convey the information we want to share? Judy Hallam brought a catalogue from Barco Products which had examples of smaller versions, [www.barcoproducts.com](http://www.barcoproducts.com), that might be more appropriate for our needs in the future and lower cost.

3. Home Hill trailhead parking: Bill Knight attended the Select Board meeting in April when this was discussed. Land owners on both ends of the trail have usurped the access to the trail. It was decided the CC should work at getting the trail functional. The Select Board suggested the parking lot should be 50'x60'. They will hold another meeting to discuss this. Plan of action: A meeting with Mr. Atwater on the site to decide on plan for marking the the trail and parking lot.

4. Townsend Bridge: Bill Knight has done a visual check on all the items but CC is still unsure if the town needs annual report of the inspection.

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New Business:

1. Wetland Permits:

a. town has applied for permit to do work on River Road Project.

b. Randy MacDonald's water level down. Peanut, David and Jeff met with him and gave him permit information.

2. Trail clear and marking. It was suggested we try to involve the community groups to get involved: scouts, KUA students, 4 H groups.

3. KUA has applied to the Planning board to extend the number of nights they can have the field flood lights on. CC was not told nor included in the meeting. The question of whether we should write a letter to the planning board with our concerns for vegetation, environmental impact on the wetlands. It was agreed to do this.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

# Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770

**Minutes** of the Conservation Commission meeting held on August 14, 2008  
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Members in attendance: David Grobe, Jeff Marsh, Judy Hallam, Judy Ptak, Bill Knight  
Guests in attendance: None

1) The minutes of the previous meetings were not available.

2) Old Business

A) Home Hill trail update – David Grobe and Eric Brann met at the trail head on August 2 and were able to follow the trail across the initial meadow and skid road portions. The owner has placed signs to assist users with trail location. Maintenance activities such as treadway clearing, refreshing blazes, and more use would be helpful.

B) Conservation Award schedule – The Commission agreed that the award would be presented to Julian Bellavance at his home on October 9, 2008 at 5:30, prior to the Commission's regular meeting

C) Kiosk update – Bill Knight reported that kiosk installation will be adjacent to and follow completion of school parking lot, currently held up due to unavailability of crushed gravel

D) Bill Knight provided an update on the stream bank repair project at the Plainfield Elementary School. Work has not been started due to high water levels in the stream.

3) New Business

A) Committee Reports

1) Wetland Permit applications – Sangermano permit application for pond construction has received approval with conditions from NH Department of Environmental Services

2) Intent-to-Cut notices - none

B) Brook Road project – Conservation Commission believes work is being done under emergency permit previously received

C) Review PCC mission – The chair encouraged members to review Conservation Commission duties outlined in the handbook published by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions

D) Plan of Work updates were considered

1) Encourage Energy Committee formation

2) Invasive species control – roadsides, town forests, other....

3) Road Best Management Practices (erosion control, etc....)

4) Other Business – none

5) Mail – Current mail was offered for review

6) Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Grobe

# Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770

PCC Minutes  
September 11, 2008

Members in attendance: Muffy Gibson, David Grobe, Judy Hallam, Bill Knight, Jeff Marsh, Judy Ptak, and Peanut Wilder.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01.

Minutes of the August 14, 2008 meeting were approved, seconded by Jeff Marsh.

## Old Business

- 1.) Jeff Marsh is framing CC award certificate and it will be presented October 9, 2008. Discussion of announcing recipient of annual CC award at town meeting.
- 2.) Roadside invasive species. There is a workshop in Unity on 10/1 on invasives. It was decided a letter should be written to the Select Board suggesting the road crew attend for training.
- 3.) Update on School project. Bill Knight was able to update us on the progress that has been accomplished. Top soil has been removed, rock bed and stream bank have been repaired. Contractor R. Williams is doing it under the direction of NRCS. DES will only accept NRCS doing it.

## New Business

- 1.) Wetland Applications:
  - a.) Mike McNamara on Bean Rd. called Dave. Dave is going to go look at it.
  - b.) Hamper's Pond approved by the State.
- 2.) Intent to cut- none

## Other Business

Best Management Practices for erosion control

**Plainfield Conservation Commission**

PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770

**Minutes** of the Conservation Commission meeting held on October 9, 2008

Due to lack of a quorum, no formal meeting was held. However, Jeff Marsh, David Grobe, and Margaret Gibson did present the 2008 Plainfield Conservation Award to Julian Bellavance at his home in East Plainfield.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

## Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380  
Meriden NH 03770  
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

**Minutes** of the Conservation Commission meeting held on December 11, 2008  
Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

Members in attendance: David Grobe, Judy Hallam, Jeff marsh, Bill Knight  
Guests in attendance: None

1) The minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting were unavailable.

### 2) Old Business

- A) Highway BMP policy request – The selectmen's response (copy attached) was discussed. Although we lacked total confidence that BMPs would be followed 100%, the consensus was that the statement that highway work was always done in conformance with the BMPs represented significant progress in that direction.
- B) Trail map update – John Taylor of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance had forwarded contact information of someone who is currently doing trail mapping. Members agreed that we should solicit a proposal.

### 3) New Business

#### A) Committee Reports

##### 1) Wetland Permitting

- a) Grobe informed the commission of the necessity for a site visit to Tom Cady's at 219 Route 120 (see attached email from Steve Halleran)
- b) Grobe informed the commission of a site visit made to Johnnie LaClair's logging job on Route 120, (Penniman Hills) and subsequent assistance provided with the wetland permit application,. LaClair used the forestry notification permit. There was some concern whether a more stringent permit might be required. Knight and Marsh made plans to visit the site themselves on December 12.
- c) A notice that a complete forestry notification permit had been received for Olsen Map 215, Lot 15

##### 2) Intent-to-Cut notices - none

B) Water quality testing project for Great Brook – Grobe solicited support for a possible water testing project on Great Brook in conjunction with other testing in the Mascoma River watershed in partnership with the Mascoma Watershed conservation Council. This will be added to the plan of work.

C) Annual Report – the chair has this project in hand

D) Boundary marking - a warrant article for another project or additional marking at the Townsend Lot was discussed. No definite course of action decided.

4) Other Business – Grobe informed the commission that he had gotten laminated copies of the Townsend Lot survey for addition to the sets of existing laminated maps of town

properties available at the libraries and town halls. He thought it would be a good idea to make .pdf maps available on the town website.

5) Mail – All mail available for review

7) Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe