

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 is 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

NO MEETING in JANUARY 2013

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes of Feb.14, 20013

Members Present:Bill Knight, Lee Walker Oxenham, Myra Ferguson, Judy Ptak, David Grobe, David Taylor

Minutes of Dec. 13 approved.

Telephone Poles on Mud Pond Property:a monitor report mentioned these poles. The property owner plans to use them so no action needed.

George Koehler Trailhead Project:Bill Knight is working on a sign for Columbus Jordan Road. Helen Koehler expressed to Myra her appreciation for the the Sanborn Road sign and kiosk.

Class VI Roads and Class A Trails:David Grobe has researched what other towns are doing and will see what we can learn from them. Do we need a policy on this matter? The Select Board has taken a conservative position on this and has resisted conversions. The Commission could establish a list of Class VI roads and prioritize them as to suitability for conversion to Class A trails. Myra offered to begin work on this.

Town Meeting Booth:David Grobe will set up a table, map, etc. for Clean-Up Day assignments.

Shulman Property:A stewardship/monitoring plan needs to be established. The property will be treated as other town properties are treated. There are some questions as to trails, access, parking which have to be cleared up. Myra will speak to Steve Halloran about this.

Conservation Project For Spring:We still plan to hold an invasive species workshop at K.U.A. A June date seems best. Publicity should extend beyond Plainfield.

Website:Mike Sutherland wants to improve the C.C. website. An outline is needed. Possible subjects include forest,wetlands, recreation, trails, permits, scenic beauty, wildlife,water, maps. We will attempt to define, clarify, etc. at our next meeting.

C.C. Award:After some discussion a deserving individual was chosen for this year's award.

Next Meeting:March 14

Respectfully submitted, David Taylor

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2013

Members present: Myra Ferguson, David Taylor, Bill Knight, Ron Eberhardt, Anne Donaghy, Judy Ptak

Minutes of Feb. 14, 2013 meeting approved.

George Koehler Ceremony - actual date set next meeting, but it will be a Sat. in June.

UFLT Annual Gathering of Conservation Commissions: Tues. April 2nd (5:30-8:30pm; dinner is 5:30-6:30pm). Center for Cartoon Studies, 46 So Main St. WRJ. Hopefully at least several of us will attend. (need to RSVP via Myra by March 29) Focus will be on 2 topics - recent survey on public attitudes about quality of life, open space & land conservation in Upper Valley; public access on conserved land.

Barry Conservation 4H Camp 2013 operated by 4H and NH F&G, in Berlin NH this summer (6 sessions over summer), wondering if we would sponsor a child to go the camp. We'll get in touch with our town's 4H contact to check on pre-existing sponsorships.

Conservation project we will take on on Earth Day, Sat. April 20: garlic mustard. Myra to announce this at Town Meeting on Sat. March 16. Also at Town Meeting, we'll announce our GreenUp week signup board (thanks to David Grobe!).

Conservation award will be presented to Nancy Mogielnicki at Town Meeting.

Mon. March 18, Sugar River Valley tech center in Claremont, 4:30-7:30pm - LCHIP hearing for feedback on Gov. Hassan's bill to restore money to the LCHIP fund.

Question on where the trail is going on Shulman property: trail starts at Coreyville Cemetery, follows dry land to the pine esker, then returns. It will be under stewardship of the CC. Family hopes that the trail could someday connect w/Farnum Lot trails (would need permission of intervening landowner).

Plan a foliage hike on an October 5: Freeman Rd side of Home Hill trail. Myra will advertise.

Class VI roads: Myra started a ranking of town roads - recommendations coming from the CC on whether Class VI are candidates for becoming Class A roads or Class A trails, or just left unchanged. Shall the CC continue to work on this? How advisory do we want to be? - shall we give our recommendations or merely give what factors would be considered in making any future determinations?

- Our homework is to write the descriptors for our town's Class VI roads.

We will each take the roads near our homes, notify others by email, and cover remaining roads when we can. Take photos when you can!

- We likely will be making recommendations based on our compilation of data on our roads.

Organizing our website: using stickie notes trying to organize our small topics into larger groupings. We made a good start!

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm

Next meeting: April 11, 2013

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne Donaghy

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2013

Members present: Myra Ferguson, David Grobe, David Taylor, Judy Ptak, Anne Donaghy

Minutes of March 14, 2013 meeting approved.

- Lee Walker Oxenham is now official as our first alternate. At present we are 6 commissioners with 1 alternate. Rachel Stoddard is interested in being second alternate, but deliberating time commitment; Myra will follow up with her.
- George Koehler Ceremony: set date for Sat. June 1, 10am. Sanborn Road trailhead, with walk following. Dave T will get this in PlainFacts (deadline is April 20). Myra will get message to Bill Knight so he can finalize the sign.
- Barry Conservation Camp: Myra waiting to hear back from Gina Surgenor. This decision tabled till next meeting. \$485 for one camper for one camp (6 dys).
- LCHIP hearing: Dave Taylor represented us; hundreds of people showed up to beg the legislature to fund, instead, so many state programs that are going to be cut. So far we've heard that LCHIP has been partially funded.
- Emerald Ash Borer: it's now in NH, will impact the forest and industry. We'll do something educational in PlainFacts (with links). Myra to contact Karen Bennett for some prepared material. Judy to get name of an excellent speaker she heard for possible town education. Our Fall Conservation Project might be education on invasive insects/Emerald Ash Borer.
- UVLT Conservation Commissions gathering attended by Myra, David T, David G. One topic they discussed afterward relating to our town was mobility disability access; this is something we don't have to take new action on in our town at this time. Also UVLT has results of Open Space survey (it was valued second only to education in Upper Valley) that they are sharing with communities. If we again gather all of our town boards for a summit - perhaps have the UVLT presentation a part of it? Myra to mention to Steve.
- Doug Cygan scheduling: at Plainfield Town Hall, weekday at 7pm with lecture/slideshow with follow-up walk in woods on a Sat. morning following. We'll try for Doug Cygan (Myra to contact) at 7pm on May 9th for our monthly meeting; meet at 6:30pm for business first. Garlic Mustard Pull will follow - north or south of the Wildflower Sanctuary, or along MacNamara's field.
- Class VI Road Inventory: Ron's excellent example - brief description including distance of the class VI road, residences along it, also include estimate of slope when that is a factor, adjacent wetlands, vernal ponds, streams, where it meets wildlife action plan, scenic vistas? accessible by emergency vehicles? evidence of dumping?
*All things in Natural Resource Inventory applied to a road. *
Our purpose - just inventory? Also promoting conservation values?

* Advocacy with information * (for ex. "this may not be a good road to upgrade")
- Anne noted some problems with discrepancy between maps... Howard Zea's map is the most accurate with regards to discontinued roads.

- Website work: We will continue to survey other similar websites for ideas, so as not to "reinvent the wheel." Agreed that we would make a modest start.

Next meeting May 9, 2013

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40pm.

Minutes submitted by Anne Donaghy

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2013

Members present: Myra Ferguson, David Grobe, David Taylor, Judy Ptak, Bill Knight, Ron Eberhardt

Meeting began at 6:30 pm

It was decided that Bill Knight would present a monitoring report of the Jen Lesser property to the Plainfield Select Board at the request of the Plainfield Select Board. Bill has been the long-term monitor of the Walker Farm property.

Doug Cygan of NH Department of Agriculture presented a slide presentation of upland invasive species beginning at 7 pm.

We missed an opportunity and did not get the names and contact information of the 26 attendees.

Next meeting June 13, 2013

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7 pm.

Minutes submitted by Myra Ferguson