

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Minutes for the Conservation Commission meeting held at the Meriden Town Hall, 7PM on January 13, 2011

Attendees: David Grobe, Myra Ferguson, David Taylor, Judy Ptak

1) Approved the minutes of the November 11, 2010 meeting (Thank you, Anne)

2) Old Business (*underlined items are action items*)

A) Spring Green-Up Day* is set for April 23, 2011 (Earth Day) by David Grobe and Anne Donaghy. David reported and we discussed several options:

- Article in PlainFacts explaining Green-Up Day and encouraging residents to sign up at District/Town Meetings to clean-up a section of road on the provided map.
- Arranging for the major “job” of cleaning up the unfortunate dump-site on MacNamara’s land and opposite the NE Wildflower Society Preserve. This clean-up was successfully done several years ago. The Town of Plainfield provided heavy equipment to haul the trash to a dumpster. Anne and David are working on these arrangements. This may not be done on April 23 because of soil conditions and the steepness of the site. We need it to be dry so that the equipment can be positioned for easy loading and hauling.
 - Can we donate some of our funds to landscape (, e.g., berm and/or guard rail, shrubbery) the “clean” dump site to discourage continued dumping?
 - Perhaps we can make the clean-up event an educational event. We could invite Sarah Schwaegler of Orford, NH to explain the value of the plants in the preserve. Maybe we don’t want too many people there because we must protect the colony of rare cut-leaf toothwort that is adjacent to the dumpsite. The clean-up probably be a separate event from the educational event.
- Asking neighbors to “hire” seventh or eighth graders to clean-up a section of roadway (like Jane Stephenson (Black Hill Road) has done in the past). The payment would go to their class fundraising.
- David G. or Anne D. will contact Joe Williams to ask if KUA students would like to contribute to Green-Up. The students must do some type of community service project for graduation.
- Girl Scouts have been organized in the past to participate in this effort. Does anyone know a Girl Scout leader?

B) Website

- Mike Sutherland is eager to resume the “population” of our website.

C) Myra will reorganize the 2010 Plan of Work to reflect ideas discussed during this meeting.

D) The Plainfield Cider Orchard easement is complete. David G. and Myra F. attended the document signing ceremony at UVLT with Steve Wood.

E) David Taylor reminded the commission of the allocation of the memorial funds (approximately \$1000) donated by Helen Koehler (deceased husband George) for the

trailhead signage on Sanborn Road (aka Brunori/Sandmann). How are the Plainfield trailhead signs made? How do we make this sign happen?

F) The Report of the Conservation Commission for Town Meeting was agreed upon and forwarded to Steve Halleran.

3) New Business

A) Review Nomination of Plainfield Conservation Award.

- Myra suggested the nomination of Jeff Marsh for his lengthy dedication to the PCC.
- There being no other suggestions and agreement that Jeff would be ideal, Myra will gather information to make this award happen for Town Meeting, March 10, 2011.

B) There was discussion of exploring the storm water containment issue at the Town Garage. This is an “old” project that should be revisited and made to happen. There are issues of how to pay for this containment. Another issue is that our community should be aggressive with the preservation of the Penniman wetland adjacent to the garage and the Conservation Commission must be a leader in this effort.

4) Other Business

A) Outreach projects for community involvement and education.

- Fergusons can have an event at Hawkride Farm to educate our residents about invasives: buckthorn, Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, phragmites, etc.
- Learn more about the conservation of land process: Taylors and Fergusons have been through that process and conserved their lands.
- Trail walk on Brad Atwater’s land (aka Home Hill Trail) partnering with Plainfield Trailblazers and Upper Valley Trails Alliance (Kevin O’Leary and John Taylor).

5) Next Conservation Commission meeting (February 10, 2011)

A) Myra will be in Utah for this meeting. Can someone lead this meeting or should we postpone until March 2011? The agenda will be to discuss George Koehler trailhead, outreach suggestions, further plans for Green-Up Day, town garage storm water containment and how to make it happen, organize plans for Wildflower/McNamara dump site, etc.

6) Adjournment at 8:30 pm

* Green-up Day is traditionally scheduled when the snow melts along the sides of the roads and the “trash” is exposed.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Minutes of the Conservation Commission meeting held on March 10, 2011
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Members in attendance: Myra Ferguson, Judy Ptak, Judy Hallam, David Grobe, Bill Knight, David Taylor, George Sandemann, Ron Eberhardt

1) The minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted

2) Old Business

A) David Grobe reviewed progress on Greenup Week preparations. Signup display will be at town meeting then reside in the town offices until event. Anne Donaghy has been in contact with Joe Williams of Kimball Union Academy regarding their participation. David and/or Anne will be in contact with Steve Halleran regarding town assistance with a focus event at the Wildflower Sanctuary turnout, with McNamara Dairy regarding timing and permissions, and follow up with both regarding a possible landscaping solution to the dumping problem.

B) Plan of Work reviewed, more detail under New Business (Outreach)

3) New Business

A) The commission welcomed Ron Eberhardt as our newest member

B) Nomination for Plainfield Conservation Award noted, to be presented at town meeting

C) Myra Ferguson indicated a willingness to serve another year in a Co-Chair capacity. The second co-chair has not been identified. Members were reminded that secretary duties would be rotated among the members.

D) Outreach

1) Idea for CC hosting walks to educate selves and residents about natural resource issues was brainstormed. Judy Ptak will take the lead on organizing quarterly/seasonal outings.

2) Highway department operations vis-à-vis invasive species became a Plan of Work discussion. The following items were considered: a) highway department - invasive species, b) highway department - protection of wetlands adjacent to highway garage, c) cleanup/landscaping at wildflower sanctuary turnout, d) outreach projects (walks?), e) highway department - storm water and hazardous waste management at highway garage. Of the highway department "projects," it was decided to first tackle the wetland protection component. Bill Knight will initiate discussion with Steve Halleran.

E) LCIP monitoring procedures discussed

F) Hewes Field bleacher proposal noted, members concluded this is no longer our department

G) KUA donation of Covered Bridge swimming hole to town noted, only comment elicited was "do not post and cautionary signage" to avoid assuming liability

4) Other Business – a) Attendance at upcoming meeting of conservation commissions hosted by Upper Valley Land Trust was promoted. B) David Grobe will forward occasional emailed materials, members can decide for themselves if they would want to

5) Mail

6) Next Conservation Commission meeting – agenda planning: Expenditure of the George Koehler memorial donation to be discussed

7) The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

David Grobe

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Minutes for the Conservation Commission meeting held at the Meriden Town Hall, 7PM on April 14, 2011

attendance: Myra, David T, David G, Bill, Anne, Ron

1. Presentation by Sarah Cavin, project manager at UVLT on process of land conservation. - start w/owner contacting UVLT, they consider conservation priorities, appraisal of land, consider funding, end result: UVLT is steward of the conservation restrictions. Jordan family has contacted UVLT about conserving Wond-R-View Farm \$3900 needed for an appraisal... landowners will put in 1K... CC is asked to decide if we'll put in the rest of money needed for appraisal. Hopefully do this in a month or so.

2. Green-Up Week April 18-23: Many signups for road trash pickup on our poster in Town Office!

David or Anne will contact Ken Stalker about opening up the town highway garage. Anne to make a flier advertising the hours for dumpster -- still 2-4pm Sat. Apr.

23

* addendum: KUA plans to do cleanup of Chellis Rd. and possibly Brook Rd. on Thurs. April 28th

Wildflower Sanctuary cleanup -- date to be May 7th, 10-12 cleanup and 12-1 wildflower walk&talk; Anne to confirm w/Leo Maslan about involvement of Boy Scouts; we're okay to bring a truck down on McNamara's field. David will talk w/town about this & has a friend who will come & give us names of wildflowers.

Chief Roberts sending us a few kids to do community work w/us. [The Boy Scouts and the Anti Boy Scouts!!]

* Talk w/Mike Sutherland about getting an announcement of both of these days on our town website (Anne), Bill will get this on the Plfd School website.

Anne get this to KUA. Anne get short piece on this Wildflower work day in PlainFacts in next week.

3. LCIP requirements -- monitoring -- Bill will do Walker easements again.

Anne to do Morgan Hill w/George... we get map from town office, Steve Walker will email us the forms via the PCC.

4. Discussion of Jordan proposal -- Start our May 12 meeting w/a public hearing. CC is unanimously in favor of donating to make the appraisal happen for Jordan land. (put article in May PlainFacts? - Myra will be in charge of getting word out)

Where do CC funds come from? We draw on both Forest Maintenance Fund and funds generated by Current Use Land penalties.

5. Discussion of Resource Inventory and CC... how do we access the software?
Arc view software used for manipulating the files. Very expensive though. Myra wondering if we can't find someone (KUA?) to print out mylar sheets of different RI material for us that we could overlay.

6. KUA donation. Mill Bridge, a natural and historical area. Valuable for historic and aesthetic reasons. It's assessed at 17K, pretty minor tax dollars for the town. CC is all in agreement on this. It will be town property, not CC as stewards. As long as land is not posted and is available the state will protect us against losses, if passive recreation.

7. March minutes approved.

adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Donaghy

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Minutes of May 12, 2011, regular meeting started at 7:21 pm from Public Hearing

Present: Ron Eberhardt, David Grobe, Judy Ptak, Judy Hallam, Bill Knight, George Sandmann, David Taylor, Myra Ferguson

- See Public Hearing minutes for discussion and adoption of related motion.
- Prior Minutes approved without correction.
- Discussion of success of Green Up Day project on River Road. Newly thrown garbage and tires during the 5 days before this meeting.

Possible Boy Scout project- Eagle Scout to plant and permanently close the River Road turnout at issue with the garbage throwing.

Conservation Commission had recommended to select board last fall to close parking off with rocks. Bill Knight to speak to Steve Halleran about closing turnout with rocks or soil until Scout Project is underway.

Someone to write article on the clean up for Plain Facts and other media.

CC to organize another clean up next year.

- Walker Trails LCIP Easement on the Walker Farm

Motion to reroute trails per flagging. Myra to email. CC envisions using alternate trail routes from easement to protect wildlife habitat. Map to be updated. George Sandmann recused. Motion passes.

- Judy Ptak on planning for seasonal activities- September-October for invasive species, February- March for organic lawn care, winter tracking. Discussion of how conservation easements could be promoted locally. January date? Amount of effort? Discussion of a wetlands visit sometime.
- Mylar overlay of town maps for resource maps. Steve Halleran has digital capabilities. Mike Sutherland to come next meeting to help. Internet access via password?
- Discussion of how to expend the Kohler fund.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Knight

Plainfield Conservation Commission

PO Box 380
Meriden NH 03770
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Minutes for meeting held June 9, 2011.

Members Present: M. Ferguson, D. Grobe, B. Knight, R. Eberhart, J. Ptak, J. Hallam, D. Taylor, Guest-M. Sutherland

- Mike Sutherland discussed with the members maps already in existence that might be used to create Mylar maps for overlay use. Will the maps be useful? Bill Knight offered to research more to see what has to be done to get maps updated then produced. David Grobe will show some maps at the next meeting.
 - Conservation Commission website: Mike showed the Conserv. Comm. section on the town website. More pictures are needed and more information is needed for some sections. Work schedule needs to be updated. Mike recommended the Commission submit agendas, imp. documents, meeting dates, etc. on a regular basis for placement on the town website.
 - Koehler Trust Fund: Bill Knight reported on plans for using the money donated in George Koehler's name. Parking lot on Sanborn Rd. will be improved by the town. The trails from Sanborn Rd. to Columbus Jordan Rd. need to be improved, named and private landowners need to be contacted for consent where trails cross private property. A trail to the Spencer Lot also has to be created. All trails can be accessed from the Sanborn Rd. parking lot. The Sanborn Rd. to Columbus Jordan Rd. trail will be called the George Koehler Trail. A kiosk will be located at the parking lot and a sign will be erected on Columbus Jordan Rd.
4. Sumners Falls: The NH Natural Heritage Bureau has asked the Commission to monitor the Sumners Falls natural area to check on endangered plants, etc.
 5. Wildflower Sanctuary Project: Is more work needed? Scouts have offered to do more work, if needed.
 6. Plan Of Work: Any changes needed?
 7. Minutes of last meeting (May 12, 2011) were approved.
 8. Next meeting: August 18
 9. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, Dave Taylor