

At a Special Town Meeting held on February 13, 1992, at the Plainfield Town Hall, the following Ordinance was adopted:

ORDINANCE # 97

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF PLAINFIELD AT A DULY WARNED TOWN MEETING:

BE IT ORDAINED THAT:

SECTION 1. GENERAL PURPOSE: Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-131a, the Conservation Commission of the Town of Plainfield, hereinafter referred to as the Commission is hereby established, The Commission is established for the development, conservation, supervision, and regulation, as specified in Sections 7 and 8, of this Ordinance including natural and water resources, within the territorial limits of the Town of Plainfield, but not to include the regulation of those activities described in Sections 22a-45 of the Connecticut General Statutes, whose regulation is elsewhere delegated to the Plainfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Section 2. MEMBERS: The Conservation Commission shall consist of five (5) members and three (3) alternates, all of whom shall be appointed by the chief executive officer of the Town of Plainfield, hereinafter referred to as Town. Initially, one member and one alternate shall serve from the date of appointment and for one year thereafter, two members and one alternate for two years, and two members and one alternate for three years, with subsequent appointments being for full term of three years each. Such alternate members shall, when seated, have all the powers and duties of a member of the Commission. The Board of Selectmen may remove any member or alternate for cause and may fill any vacancy.

Section 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Within thirty (30) days after appointment of the original members, and annually thereafter, the regular members shall meet and elect from its membership a chairman, secretary and other necessary officers.

Section 4. The Commission shall conduct researches into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas of the Town and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes.

Section 5. The Commission may advertise, prepare and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets as necessary for its purpose.

Section 6. The Commission shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas.

Section 7. The Commission may do the following:

- a. identify and index the major aquifer systems,

- b. identify and index natural resources, including but not limited to wildlife, plant life, minerals,
- c. identify and index agricultural land,
- d. from time to time recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission and other Boards and Commissions, plans and programs for the development and use of such areas,
- e. with the approval by Town Meeting, acquire land and easements in the name of the Town,
- f. receive and/or administer from Planning and Zoning, other Commissions, Committees, Persons, or Boards, land, easements, or money collected or designated for open space,
- g. identify and assess cultural, historic archeological, and forest resources,
- h. encourage the development of land preservation programs such as municipal land banks and encourage private initiatives such as land trust,
- i. identify and index land not included in Section 6 and easements, public and private.

Section 8. The Commission shall have the power to promulgate rules and regulations, including but not limited to the establishment of reasonable charges for the use of land and easements and for any of the purposes set out in this ordinance. The Commission may amend and repeal same.

Section 9. The Commission shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report to the Town in the manner required of other commissions of the Town.

Section 10. The Commission may receive gifts in the name of the Town for any of its purposes and shall administer the same subject to the terms of the gift.

Section 11. The Commission may exchange information with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

Section 12. The Board of Selectmen may appropriate funds for the Commission's use in carrying out the purposes of this ordinance.

Section 13. If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, found to be invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 14. This ordinance shall become effective 15 days after publication, as provided by law.