

On MAR - 8 2022 @ 1:18 pm

Attest: Cynthia P. Mattan
Town Clerk West.

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Date: 2-28-2022

Members Present: Wally Cwynar, Sylvia Wielk, Adrian Paulsen, Susan Hall, Nick Anderson.

Members Absent: None

Guests: Mark Simmons, Art Gagne, June Gagne

Call to Order: W. Cwynar called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call: Wally Cwynar, Sylvia Wielk, Adrian Paulsen, Susan Hall, Nick Anderson

Additions and / or Corrections to the Agenda:

W. Cwynar motioned to correct agenda to say Moosup Valley State Park Trail, S. Hall seconded, all approved.

Appoint Alternate Members

There was a sufficient quorum of three full members, so no alternate members were appointed.

Approval of 1-24-2021 meeting minutes

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W. Cwynar motioned for the Plainfield website to correctly indicate Adrian Paulsen is now a full member of the Conservation Commission.

Moosup Valley State Park Trail

W. Cwynar indicated he spoke with Mary Ann Chinatti, who was able to provide an email response to W. Cwynar for the Conservation Commission's recent questions for the updated plan.

M. Chinatti answered 3 out of 5 questions.

Last communication received from M. Chinatti

- 1) Trolley Bridge is included in the plans, at the beginning stages near the Bridge.
- 2) The project is estimated currently to be completed in 2023 and should start at the beginning June.
- 3) The trail may be paved in the future if more funding becomes available to the State for the project, but at the current time the plan does not include funding for paving the trail.

Unanswered questions (2)

- 4) Bridge area and upkeep – will it be funded
- 5) Whether Equestrian use is going to be built into the project.

S. Hall mentioned the tent city that has occasionally been observed off the main trail in the woods near the trail in the Moosup area.

W. Cwynar pointed out the project was initiated in 2019, and construction expected to begin in the Spring of 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly delayed the rollout of the project up to this point.

American Chestnut Foundation Memberships will need to be renewed in the near future , as membership expires 3/01/2022. Each membership costs \$40. W.Cwynar discussed the idea of the CC retaining two memberships, instead of the current status of the CC, for a total of \$80. S. Wielk motioned for the Conservation Commission to order two new annual memberships for the CC to be able to have two physical copies for town research and records. Motion approved.

Kate Downing Road Open Space Project

W. Cwynar indicated he spoke with Mark Simmons about the project.

M. Simmons, town Recreation Director presented on the recent survey results from the Kate Downing Road Open Space Survey hosted by the recreational department.

There were 213 responses. M. Simmons noted that curious citizens may inquire for further details by email, phone, or in-person with the Plainfield Recreation Department.

Plans currently do not include a pavilion or a permanent restroom, although these were among the most popular choices listed in question 2 of the survey.

Top priority: A Phase 1, establishing trails to make the space available to the public.

Status of the grants W. Cwynar endorsed: \$2500 grant was awarded and received and after several quotes were received by environmental consultants, the Board of Selectman voted to award Connwood a contract to create an environmental management plan.

\$30,000 Grant is pending and if awarded will fund a Phase 1 plan with various stages of construction, splitting in increments of \$15K, \$10K, and \$5K.

Additional grants and funding sources will be considered for possible bridge construction in the wetland area.

\$5,000 will be set aside from the possible \$30,000 to be received in grant form to keep the environmental consultants involved throughout the project.

Parking lot options are currently being assessed by the town engineer and the Board of Selectman in collaboration with the Department of Recreation.

M. Chinatti submitted the plan maps to the town engineer for evaluation

M. Simmons explained that the survey linked was unexpectedly shared in a disc golf organization email network, and 178 responses came from survey participants who did not reside in Plainfield. M. Simmons set these responses aside as statistical outliers in his analysis.

W. Cwynar asked how much space the disc golf course would take up and how much money would the disc golf course cost to maintain for the town.

M. Simmons explained the disc golf course could take up to 50 acres (out of approximately 161 acres). He also explained that the to-be named and appointed Steering Committee will play a large role in the determination of the total planning of the Open Space, and this committee will be named and appointed in the next few months. He also explained Frank Cervo, Service Forester, from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, prepared a

report on the property that describes the current environmental condition of the property and makes recommendations as to the management of the property. W. Cwynar gave members a copy of the report.

A. Gagne explained the Plainfield Board of Selectman had voted during their meeting earlier the same day to create a Kate Downing Open Space Advisory Committee.

M. Simmons explained Phase 2 of the plan may include applying for a \$30,000 annual Grant.

Other Business

Commission member list updated to reflect current status and to be submitted to Town Clerk. W. Cwynar provided M. Simmons some copies of a trail map for the former Plainfield Forest Management area, which is now Pachaug State Forest. Local residents have been inquiring. S. Wielk has prepared a list of conservation-related links to share with Kyle Collins to post on the Plainfield Town website on the Conservation Commission page.

W. Cwynar asked the CC to decide a date and what trees they wanted to order for the Annual Tree Giveaway. Saturday, April 23rd was decided, the day after Earth Day.

A. Paulsen motioned for the Conservation Commission to place an order for 4 varieties of evergreen trees, 16 bundles of trees with 25 trees per bundle, and 20 pollinator plugs, to be ordered by S. Wielk. S. Hall seconded the motion, and approved.

W. Cwynar reached out to local business , Plainfield Agway, in obtaining a donation to support the annual Tree Giveaway. Will follow up.

Citizen Participation:

- A. Gagne informed the CC that the Planning and Zoning Commission is planning to have a public hearing on whether or not to approve the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units without an acreage requirement. A Gagne expressed his concern about the "By Rights" aspect of the potential decision, saying he was concerned about the process destroying the rural quality of the town.

Meeting Adjourned:

Adrian Paulsen made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 pm, seconded by S. Hall

Next Meeting: March 21, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by: Walter Cwynar, Chairman

Walter F. Cwynar 3-8-2022