

On 3/29/2022 @ 3:45 pm

Attest: Wynne Talbot  
Town Clerk

## Plainfield Conservation Commission

**Date:** 3-21-2022

**Members Present:** Wally Cwynar, Sylvia Wielk, Adrian Paulsen, Susan Hall,

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:** Art Gagne, Selectman, June Gagne

**Call to Order:** W. Cwynar called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

### Additions and / or Corrections to the Agenda:

There were no corrections to make to the agenda.

### Appoint Alternate Members

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

### Approval of 2-28-2021 meeting minutes

N. Anderson motioned to accept the meeting minutes to accept the meeting minutes, S. Hall seconded.

### Moosup Valley State Park Trail

W. Cwynar indicated he had not yet heard back from M. Chinatti regarding the Moosup Valley State Park Trail: the below two questions have still not been answered.

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

### American Chestnut Foundation

W. Cwynar indicated the request for funds for 2 memberships for a total of \$80 has been submitted and awaiting approval.

W. Cwynar mentioned he is still planning to try the mud-packing technique to address the cankers on the Mother Chestnut tree.

W. Cwynar mentioned that during a hike to the Pharisee rock trail in Pachaug Forest, he and his wife found a Chestnut tree that has produced nuts, with no visible signs of blight. He indicated he was going to check in with the Friends of Pachaug group as well as the Connecticut chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

S. Wielk and W. Cwynar indicated they will attempt to sprout the chestnuts they have been nursing over the winter.

### **Kate Downing Road Open Space Project**

W. Cwynar indicated he has not heard from K. Cunningham or M. Chinatti regarding the project's Open Space Committee progression. S. Wielk and S. Hall have submitted an application of interest in joining the committee.

### **Other Business**

W. Cwynar indicated the Tree Giveaway will occur on Saturday, April 23, from 9:AM till Noon. An announcement will come out in the Turnpike Buyer. The trees and pollinators have been ordered and will be picked up the day before, April 22, which is Earth Day, 2022.

S. Wielk and W. Cwynar both have informational handouts for the event to give out during Tree Giveaway, and S. Wielk is preparing signs for the giveaway.

The CC will bring its own tables and will finalize the plan on the next CC meeting.

Gravel operations have been on the increase in town. S. Hall & W. Cwynar spoke publicly at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning meeting protesting against increasing gravel operations, suggested limiting these operations in town.

S. Hall noted on Page 64 of the town ordinances that by Special Permit any property can begin a gravel operation.

S. Hall noted that the Rhoads Road property on Route 12 has received several notices and a cease and desist and that the Inlands and Wetlands Commission has already approved the American Industries application for a gravel operation. The CC members divided some tasks among themselves for making future recommendations to Planning and Zoning concerning Gravel operations.

The upcoming ADU hearing is planned for the Planning & Zoning Commission on April 12th.

A. Gagne made himself available for questions on the matter. Areas of primary concern are: 1) property acreage limitations; 2) size limitations for ADU; 3) limitations on residents in ADU; 4) if current "By Right" ADU ordinance being considered is approved, then there is more likelihood for environmental issues. Also the mentioning of looking at Connecticut State Statutes: Chapter 12, 8-2g, Chapter 126a, 8-30J, and 8-30g.

N. Anderson protested that the recent Norwich Bulletin, March 4th front page article, that claimed the recent formation of an Open Space Committee was the first organization of its kind in Plainfield was inaccurate and disregarded the role of the Conservation Commission during the last decade.

W. Cwynar made the motion that the Conservation Commission would like to correct the March 4<sup>th</sup> Norwich Bulletin article claiming the newly created Open Space Committee was the first open space project in 320 years. The Conservation Commission has been pursuing Land acquisition and creation of an Open Space property since 2014, when the Town owned Forest Management Area at the end of Colbridge Road, was transferred to the State of Connecticut, which in effect became State Forest. The Conservation Commission would like to have its activities properly noted in the public record.

W. Cwynar noted that the High School Annex had recently been condemned. A. Gagne noted that the town had requested an architectural engineering assessment of the Annex to determine whether there were any aspects that are salvageable and that there will be another public hearing to review final options for the Annex.

**Citizen Participation:**

A. Gagne requested that the Conservation Commission keep a list of the agricultural and natural resources within the Open Space and hiking areas in Plainfield.

W. Cwynar noted that the Commission had worked extensively in the past to create Natural Resource Map overlays, and should still be stored and available in the Planning and Zoning office archives.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Adrian Paulsen made a motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm, seconded by S. Hall

**Next Meeting:** April 18, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by: Walter Cwynar, Chairman

*Walter F. Cwynar* 3-29-2022

Received For Record At Plainfield CT  
On APR 26 2022 @ 7:39 pm  
Attest: Cynthia J. Moteau  
Town Clerk Asst.

## Plainfield Conservation Commission

Date: 3-21-2022 Amendments to these minutes are in Bold and underlined.

- 1). **Members Present:** Wally Cwynar, Sylvia Wielk, Adrian Paulsen, Susan Hall, Nick Anderson.
- 2). Approval of 2-28-2022 meeting minutes

Respectfully submitted by: Walter Cwynar, Chairman

Walter F. Cwynar 3-26-2022