

Received For Record At Plainfield CT
On SEP 30 2021 at 3:30pm

Attest: Beauca K. Jewell Asst.
Barbi J. Gardiner, Town Clerk

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: 9-20-2021

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

Members Absent: Nick Anderson, Mark Doyle, Matt Yanuskiewicz

Guests: None

Call to Order: W. Cwynar called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Additions and / or Corrections to the Agenda

S. Hall made a motion to retitle the 8th item on the agenda to Kate Downing Road Open Space Project. S. Wielk 2anded the motion, all voted in favor.

Appoint Alternate Members

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

Approval of 8-16-2021 meeting minutes

S. Hall made a motion to rename the header reference on page 2 of the minutes on the agenda from 'Open Space Project/Survey' to 'Kate Downing Road Open Space Project'. S. Wielk seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor.

S. Hall made a motion to accept the revised meeting minutes, S. Wielk seconded the motion, all members present voted in favor.

Moosup Valley Bike Trail

W. Cwynar indicated he had recently communicated with Mark Jewell of VHB, the company contracted by the state as oversight managing, and liaison consultant for the DOT. The Designers of the Moosup Valley Bike Trail is BL Companies. According to Mark Jewell the design stage is almost 90% complete and VHB will be ready within the next few months to present the design plan to the Town of Plainfield. W. Cwynar is Strongly advocating have the bike trail paved and communicated that to Mark Jewell.

American Chestnut Foundation

W. Cwynar said he had gone to the former Plainfield Forest Management area, now Pachaug State Forest, to see the Chestnut grove and confirmed that the mother tree is still healthy and has gotten to be almost 50 feet tall. He showed Conservation Commission members pictures of the chestnuts that were growing in clusters toward the top of the tree and noted this was the third year of Chestnut tree producing nuts. W. Cwynar said he had spoken with the President of the Connecticut chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, Jack Swatt, who was hoping to come look at the grove in the 1st week of October. S. Wielk suggested setting a net under the tree to catch the falling nuts for possible germination. All other members agreed but no formal motion was made.

Open Space Project

Walt showed CC members an article in the Norwich Bulletin featuring Mary Anne Chinatti

wherein she discussed the current Plainfield Administration's thinking about possible uses and plans for the Kate Downing Open Space Project. W. Cwynar observed that a recent town meeting had been held to discuss the project with residents but that the Conservation Commission had not received any communication about this meeting or the upcoming October 4th town meeting, where the project was slated to be discussed again. All present CC members indicated their intention to attend and provide their perspectives at the October 4th Town Meeting. Adrian Paulsen texted Mary Anne Chinatti and confirmed that the Connecticut Department of Transportation and not the DEEP was responsible for ensuring the Town and residents complied with the Open Space requirements of the deeded portion of the property. Mary Anne also indicated by text that the DOT had provided that very day a definition of Open Space property and its requirements and that she would be able to review this with the Commission at its next meeting.

Other Business

Adrian Paulsen explained that he had seen a sign at the Freja Park in Bolton asking for volunteers to support the work of the Bolton Conservation Commission, and thought a similar approach might be a good idea for the Conservation Commission to explore as the Kate Downing Open Space Project proceeds. S. Wielk and S. Hall mentioned the Young Marines and Boy Scouts as additional possible resources the CC should consider as well.

W. Cwynar noted that the trail for the Walktober Chestnuts and Overlooks event needs considerable clean up, with two large trees down over the trail, along with many smaller trees and branches. Also, the older walking bridge needs shoring up and repairing of loose boards. He will be accomplishing that on Sunday, Sept. 26, with any other members who can help, starting at 10 AM till finished.

Citizen Participation:

None

Meeting Adjourned: S. Hall made a motion to adjourn at 8:33pm, seconded by Adrian Paulsen

Next Meeting: October 18th, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by: Walter Cwynar Chairman

Walter F. Cwynar 9-30-2021