

On OCT 26 2021 at 2:49pm

Attest: Barbara J. Gardiner ASST  
Barbara J. Gardiner, Town Clerk

## Plainfield Conservation Commission

**Date:** 10-18-2021

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

**Members Absent:** Nick Anderson, Mark Doyle, Matt Yanuskiewicz

**Guests:** None

- 1) **Call to Order:** W. Cwynar called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.
- 2) **Roll Call:** Wally Cwynar, Sylvia Wielk, Adrian Paulsen, Susan Hall

### Additions and / or Corrections to the Agenda

None

### Appoint Alternate Members

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

### Approval of 9-20-2021 meeting minutes

S. Hall motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Adrian seconded the motion and all approved.

### Moosup Valley Bike Trail

No members of the Conservation Commission have heard from M. Chinatti regarding updates on this project. Walt will follow up for next month.

### American Chestnut Foundation

W. Cwynar said he had gone to the Plainfield Pachaug 97 Acre Forest area, to see the Chestnut grove on 10/14/2021 and confirmed that the mother tree is still healthy, but unfortunately is starting to show signs of blight. Two cankers are forming about 10 and 15 feet above ground, and woodpeckers are making holes in the canker areas. Walt intends to try and curb the cankering issue by using the mudpack method that the TACF recommends that sometimes works. All visible nuts had fallen. No viable nuts had landed on the ground. The squirrels likely picked out the best specimens. Walt was able to preserve a small portion of seeds that, if wintered properly, will survive and may become trees in the spring. W.Cwynar said he had spoken with the President of the Connecticut chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, Jack Swatt. On October 8th, Swatt visited the chestnut site, and was able to find two viable chestnut nuts. Swatt also placed the Walktober Chestnuts and Overlooks event at the 97 acre Pachaug site on the TACF website.

### Kate Downing Road Open Space Project

Walt reviewed the events that occurred at the October 4<sup>th</sup> informational hearing about the Kate Downing Road Open Space. Walt, Adrian, Sylvia, and Sue Hall all attended the meeting; Walt, Susan, and Adrian all spoke at the Town Meeting. All the members indicated they would like to have some more input in marketing, designing and distributing the new Kate Downing Road survey, as they are an advisory stakeholder to the process. S. Hall indicated she had asked Kevin Cunningham to extend the length of the survey. On the other hand, Walt pointed out that there was currently no expiration date on the survey and that there should be an expiration date.

There is a tentative plan for the Conservation Commission members to do an initial walkthrough of the Kate Downing Property in early November.

- **Other Business**

Fourteen people and a dog made it out to the Walktober Chestnuts and Overlooks event at the Plainfield Pachaug 97 Acre area, including Walt, S. Hall, and S. Welk. The weather was perfect for this time of year, and attendees were polite and particularly attentive towards the abundance of mushrooms along the trail. Attendees came from Plainfield, Moosup, Griswold, and one individual came from Southbridge Massachusetts.

- Walt noted some changes be made for next year: He would like to open up the trail inside the 97 acres and avoid the steep rocky decline in the path, where some people have tripped.
  - In addition, Walt determined with the aid of Sharon Viadella, who works with the Friends of Pachaug, that the trail length was 1.9 miles. Sharon offered to help the Conservation Commission to put up clarifying signs.
  - S. Hall asked whether the Conservation Commission members could get a discounted rate to join the Friends of Pachaug. The endurotrail comes directly by the Plainfield Pachaug 97 acre area, which is technically part of the Pachaug forest.
  - Walking difficulty should be changed to moderate and walking shoes recommended.
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- Walt noted that Matt Yanuskiewicz and Nick Anderson have not attended the Conservation Commission meetings, for at least the past 2 meetings, and will follow up on that.
  - S. Hall noted that DEEP and Brooklyn Health Department are reporting that West Nile Ticks have been reported in Pachaug.

**Citizen Participation:**

None

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

**Next Meeting:** November 15th, 2021

Respectfully Submitted by: Walter Cwynar Chairman

*Walter F. Cwynar 10-26-2021*