

Plainville Conservation Commission
Minutes of March 28, 2023

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A meeting of the Plainville Conservation Commission was held at the Plainville Town Hall on 03/28/2023. The meeting opened at: 6:01pm. The meeting was recorded.

Commission members present:

George Benz, Bob Davis, Dawn Denizkurt, Lou Droste, Bob Moores, Jack Shepardson

Commission members absent/late:

Lorna Bosworth (arrived at 6:12pm)

Staff: Chris Yarworth

Meeting status: New Public Hearing
Time: 6:01 p.m.
Project: 31 Hawkins Street – Town of Plainville – NOI.
DEP #: 265-0426

Applicant/Rep Present: None

Information submitted: None

Discussion: No new information was submitted. The Commission had requested time to view the site. Mr. Droste expressed concerns about mosquitos, black flies and hydraulic fluid from Stewart's Junkyard. Ms. Denizkurt expressed concerns about beaver activity, clearing the Fales Road culvert and commented she did not think the lot was good to build on. Mr. Davis stated the site floods, and he was concerned that the Town was the Applicant.

Dennis Amico of 64 Fales Road stated there are two culverts that are impacted by beavers, and that the Fales Road culvert is in disrepair. He is worried about the culvert collapsing and has spoken with the DPW. He is opposed to the project.

Randy Tuomisto of 411 Reservoir Road, Cumberland stated he has been clearing the culvert. He is president of the Cumberland Land Trust. There are many beavers in the area that need to be either managed or euthanized. The Fales Road culvert is fed by two streams.

Carol Lewicki of 9 Sunnyside Drive asked to see the Site Plan and stated it looks like it works under the bylaws.

After additional discussion, the Commission made the following motions:

Motion by Ms. Denizkurt and seconded by Mr. Droste to request the Applicant provide a habitat study for the site. Passed: 6-1-0. (Benz opposed)

Motion by Ms. Denizkurt and seconded by Mr. Droste to continue the public hearing to 04/11/2023. Passed: 7-0-0.

Status: Continued to 04/11/2023.

General Business:

65 Fales Road – Erin Byrne

Scott Dunmore, who lives at 65 Fales Road with Ms. Bryne, was present to discuss conditions at the site. He had met with the Agent and Mr. Droste earlier in the day after the Agent had seen signs of tree clearing behind the house and had contacted both Ms. Bryne and Mr. Dunmore to schedule a site visit. The agent presented photographs taken that morning showing clear cutting and fill behind the house. The work was done without a permit and included work both in, and adjacent to, the surrounding wetlands. Riverfront and flood plain areas may also have been impacted.

Mr. Dunmore stated that a large rainstorm in January had damaged some trees, and his insurance company had recommended he remove them for safety purposes. He keeps rescue horses outside and was unaware of the wetland regulations. He has no plans to build but wants to create a pasture for his animals. He had no intent to damage wetlands, but merely to create a meadow. He had installed a culvert under a cart path to allow an existing ditch to continue flowing. The land was filled with construction tailings.

Dennis Amico of 64 Fales Road said he has cut trees on his site across the road with no problem and has seen others on town boards cut trees also. Why is Mr. Dunmore being singled out?

Ms. Lewicki of 9 Sunnyside Drive again asked about the lot next door.

Randy Tuomisto of 411 Reservoir Road, Cumberland stated that in Rhode Island the state handles violations.

Motion by Mr. Benz and seconded by Mr. Droste to direct the Agent to contact DEP for assistance, to issue a local enforcement order if needed after contacting DEP, and to coordinate with the Owner and Mr. Dunmore if they need assistance finding an environmental professional to prepare a replication plan. Passed: 7-0-0.

April is “Keep Plainville Beautiful” month, and Mr. Moores encouraged all members to contribute their efforts.

A site walk of the following Conservation owned land was scheduled for 3:00 pm on Sunday 04/02/2023:

- Mirimichi Street at Lake Mirimichi, adjacent to House #39.
- End of Haynes Road – new access trail

Notice will be sent to Mr. Rabinovitz (39 Mirimichi St.) and the Open Space and Recreation Committee to see if they wish to attend.

The Agent had done a site walk of properties owned by Natural Resources Trust of Plainville. NTRP is hoping to have the Wildlands Trust take over their properties. Members of both groups were present during the walk.

Motion by Mr. Benz and seconded by Mr. Droste to approve the minutes for the 02/14/2023 meeting. Passed: 6-0-1. (Bosworth abstaining)

Motion by Ms. Denizkurt and seconded by Mr. Droste to adjourn at 7:22pm. Passed: 7-0-0.

Submitted by:

Christopher Yarworth
Conservation Agent