

Plainfield Planning Commission Meeting

January 16, 2017

Present: Karen Storey, Jean Hamilton, Will Colgan

Agenda: Approval of minutes from previous meeting; Discussion of significant wildlife; Brief summary of Jens Hilke/Conservation Commission Presentation; move forward on the draft; look at parking

Approval of Minutes: Karen moves, minutes approved.

Summary of Jens Hilke Presentation: Jens had good points about supporting the larger animals who need larger tracts of land for habitat. Karen was interested in “Biofinder” a map that has recently been released by the state that shows animal habitat. Audience was primarily there to listen and learn. Jens considers a forest block to be >20 acres. Jens mentioned off-hand processes for managing conservation, such as ‘through planning.’

Discussion of Significant Wildlife: E. Montpelier, Calais, Marshfield use “wildlife” in their plans, but do not define it. Barre Town does not use “wildlife” in their plan.

In regards to riparian zones new plan will maintain 50’ buffer from edge of water.

Will’s proposal: refine significant wildlife habitat and then we will recommend advisory development criteria with the goals of limiting fragmentation in larger blocks and maintaining documented wildlife corridors.

Add “documented vernal pools” to water course (section 3.10) that are subject to 50’ buffers.

NEW DEFINITION: Significant Wildlife Habitats: see zoning draft 1/16/17.

Need to look at agriculture.

Will has asked Jens for recommendations on what the advisory steps are to mitigate fragmentation and preserve forest continuity and preserve agriculture soils.

Parking: Change “commercial district” to “village district” for the area that DRB may be able to waive parking restrictions for.

Motion to adjourn made by Jean. Karen seconds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58^{PM}