

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
February 23, 2023**

Location: **PLAINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**
 47 Robert Holcomb Way

Time: **9:30 AM – Main Entrance**

- 1. Roll Call :** The meeting started at 9:40 A.M.

Commissioners in attendance: M. Burris, J. Sepko, L. Noble, R. Paz

Guests: J. Czerwinski, D. Pikiell, about 20 students.

- 2. Sign Design for the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Tomasso Nature Park**

Reference: The list of questions the students provided to us before the meeting.

Marge gave an opening statement about the park. Jeff conveyed the history of the park.

The students took a field trip to Tomasso Nature Park a month or so ago (on a warm winter day).

Discussion on the Turtle nesting area. Signage content, turtle active times, turtle species using nesting area, warning signs.

Bat discussion. How many bat boxes are there? Are we open to more bat boxes. Jeff discussed the care and placement of bat boxes.

Student's expressed concern about the trees removed for bike trail construction.

Discussion on what we would like highlighted in the park - specifically plants and animals. Jeff listed off many animals such as eastern painted turtles, snapping turtles, muskrats, beaver, red wing blackbirds, hawks, heron, snakes, in addition to others. He also mentioned mountain laurel, rhododendron, and various tree species.

There was a discussion about phragmites (reeds), knot weed, and other invasive plants.

Questions asked (paraphrased)

- Any loss of wildlife since the creation of the park? It was suggested that Art Marino might be able to answer the question.
- Access to any original plans used to create the park. Art was suggested as a source along with the Plainville Historical Society
- Are there fish in the ponds? Yes, but we don't really know what.
- Would we like signs about why no bikes or dogs? We felt that would be a good idea and Linel suggested trying to keep signage positive rather than always 'No' and 'Prohibited'.
- What did the land look like before the park was created? We are not sure. Some heard it was a sand pit, the Historical Society could be a good source.
- What are our concerns about the Bike Trail going there? Keeping the park as natural as possible. Humans tendency to ignore signs and destroy things. General human impact on nature.

3. **Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 10:30AM