

Marshfield Conservation Commission
170th Meeting
4 January 2023 at Old Schoolhouse Common & Virtual
MINUTES

Members Present: Taber Allison, Luke Boushee, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Bradley Materick, Anne Miller, Sarah Norton, Bob Popp, and Annie Reed

Minutes: December Minutes approved unanimously as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Bradley

- We were informed that can't make a donation to library out of Operation Fund. Ok to do out of the Conservation Fund.
- Ellen declined the payment for gas for her tractor.
- Second weed wrench is on order
- Bradley will get final year accounting for our Conservation Fund

Watershed Grant Steve

- Steve, Ed and Luke are working on final report for Watershed Grant. Should be done by next week.
- Steve will present to **Upper Winooski Naturalists on Tuesday, the 17th at 7 PM**
- Completed the work under budget, unsure on whether need to rescind funds
- With these results will be able to pursue reclassification of stream categories in town.

Culvert Replacements: Steve

- Steve is still concerned with improving aquatic organism passage, that could allow non-native trout to access upstream areas and compete with native brook trout.
- Current data indicates only native brook trout are above the Holt Rd culvert.
- VT Fish & Wildlife will sample Nasmith Brook and other streams in Marshfield to determine whether non-natives are upstream of culverts.
- Also want to replace the crossing on Lye Brook. This is less of a concern to Steve.

Winooski Headwaters Meeting

- Friends of Winooski, Cabot, Plainfield, Marshfield decided on streams to sample next summer to include Winooski below both Plainfield & Marshfield treatment plants and a number of other streams in the three towns.

Watershed Grant Proposal

- Discussed possibly submitting a proposal to improve trails to protect watersheds but unlikely we'd have projects by the **due date which is Feb 8th**.
- Suggest forwarding the RFP to the Stranahan Committee
- Max of \$10K for implementation, \$5K for education and \$3.5K for planning & inventory

Martin Covered Bridge: Bradley

- Will begin to work on Management Plan this Spring, but will need to conduct an inventory during the growing season prior to completing the plan.
- Completion of plan may provide some ideas for a watershed grant for next year.

Natural Resource Inventory

- No further progress. Matt hopes to have a draft completed by February.

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Bradley

- Friday, Jan 27th 5 to 8 will be community meeting with an introduction and focus on visioning.
- Saturday, the 28th from 9 to 5 will be community workshop which is more interactive with a focus on action planning.
- Food will be provided on both days.
- The consultants have created a link to a map where you can drop a pin for recreational asset or an idea for a recreational opportunity. See link here.
<https://eprpc.mysocialpinpoint.com/rercmarshfield/share/ed8df386#/>
- Intent is to identify ways to improve & expand recreational opportunities and identify funding sources

Plainfield Christmas Bird Count: Bob

- Bob provided a summary of the Plainfield CBC in which he and Taber participated
- Occurred on Dec 18th, the day after the heavy snow, but number of species was above average and total individuals was close to average.
 - Observed 44 species vs 20 year average of 40.2 species.
 - Total no of individual birds observed was 4,545 vs 4,606 average for preceding five years.
 - Highlights included Merlin (2nd one ever for the count), Brown thrasher (3rd time ever for count) and a rough legged hawk
 - Other notes: turkey nos were down along with bluejays, and chickadees. Crow nos were up along with red-breasted nuthatch. There were no white wing crossbills, redpolls or snow buntings, but both pine and evening grossbeaks, pine siskins, and a couple of purple finches.

Annual Report: Due by Jan 10th

- Bob will send out a draft by the weekend for a quick review before submitting.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 7 January 2023

Approved on: 1 February 2023