

## Marshfield Conservation Commission

180th Meeting, 1 November, 2023 at Old Schoolhouse

### Minutes

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

Non-Members Present: Brett Engstrom

Minutes: October minutes approved as presented except to add Steve as an attendee

Treasurer's Report: Ca. \$29 remaining in Operation Fund after renewal of Zoom account and VACC membership

- **Bradley** will check with Bobbi as to whether the Town would provide a Zoom Acct.
- Otherwise we will try to partner with other town committees
- Bradley requests reimbursement for printing cost. Members agreed.

#### Wildlife Brochure

- Reprinting quote from Minuteman was sent to Select Bd for their approval.
- Minuteman has it on file along with the booklet.

#### Gable Property Brett

- Ca. 84 ac parcel that owners are interested in conserving. Brett visited property in 2006
- Property is mostly forested with no buildings.
- Also contacted other conservation organizations which are not interested, but owners have yet to contact the state since abuts state land.
- Decided that should offer to the state and we'd pursue further if they're not interested.
- Suggestion to consider future acquisitions/easements in the town
- Suggestion to form a committee to investigate possible acquisitions to include Sara, Steve, Brett and anyone else interested. Possible Annie?

#### Holt Road Bridge Replacement

- Steve got VTDEC to inventory Nasmith Brook above Holt Rd and found only brook trout.
- NRCD has offered funds but would want to remove the drop to allow passage of aquatic organisms.
- FEMA will replace the bridge in kind but wouldn't cover any improvements
- Steve explained to SB that would like to maintain upper Nasmith as brook trout only. Town has retained an engineer to design a number of bridges including this one.

- Steve suggests drafting a letter to SB expressing our preference. **Steve** will draft and distribute to the committee.

### Old Schoolhouse Common

- Explore the solar panel area for replanting the pollinator garden. Need the SB approval.
- SB approved planting trees on the berm and removing invasives.
- Steve planted sumac and mt ash. Encouraged members to transplant a few trees this fall.
- Have a more organized planting next spring

### Natural Resources Inventory Report

- Bradley received photos from Matt and Brett and is editing the current draft.

### Flood Recovery at Martin Covered Bridge

- Cleanup day is schedule for **Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5**. Note: this happened with ca. dozen folks participating. We raked out ruts, removed some silt piles and one tree that was threatening the bridge.
- Bradley presented his draft management plan for the three fields.
- Field 1 would be retained as a hayfield with adequate buffer to the wetland. Mowing would accommodate bobolinks nesting.
- Field 2 would be retained as open grassland habitat and brushhog as needed, every few years.
- Field 3 would be managed similar to 2 except to allow some woody vegetation to be established. Possibly could be managed by hand rather than brushhogged but to be determined.
- Would allow for soft edges rather than an abrupt transition so would need to cut trees of a certain size to keep in early succession.
- **Bradley** will present to the Select Bd prior to any further work being done. He will also include our goals for the property. **Next SB meeting is Tues, the 7<sup>th</sup>**.

### Tree & Shrub Sale Update.

- Rose Paul sent an update of Tree & Shrub sale to have a weekend at East Hill Tree Farm.
- They are asking for a commitment for two hour shifts on a weekend in May.

### Announcements

- **Sky watching session of Nov 15** rain date on the 17<sup>th</sup> at OSC.

Submitted On: 6 November 2023

Approved On: 6 December 2023

Submitted By: Bob Popp