

Marshfield Conservation Commission
169th Meeting
7 December, 2022 at Old Schoolhouse Common
MINUTES

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

Others: Matt Peters and Brett Engstrom

Minutes: November Minutes approved unanimously as presented

Natural Resource Report: Matt and Brett

- Of a total of 33 sites they visited at least portions of 17 of them including majority of high & med high priority sites.
- Found a surprising number of fens, mostly intermediate fens including at Beaver Meadow & North Branch. A number of them also had some rare plants.
- Also found a red maple tamarack swamp at Beaver Meadow.
- Found a few cedar swamps, but mostly fairly small examples
- Also some of the fens were moving towards being rich fens, but most of them have an agricultural history so unsure whether will persist. One had a marl deposit with precipitated lime along upper reaches of King Brook.
- Found a number of seepage wetlands.
- Lye Brook has some extensive beaver influenced sedge meadows.
- Town has a lack of rich northern hardwood and floodplain forest. All examples were just tiny patches with human influence.
- Found some odd, somewhat rich forest on clay soils that don't fit the Natural Community Classification. Occur only in small pockets. The clays along the Winooski are typically at least somewhat calcareous.
- EAB occurs throughout the town and beginning to impact wetlands where black ash is dying back.
- Found *Tetradontium ovatum* a moss last seen in 1900s in Maine and new to VT.
- Next steps is to compile a report and presentation. Uncertain of timing on those.
- They will prepare a master spreadsheet of all sites with categories re visited or not visited with reason, i.e. denied, no response or lower priority.

Treasurer's Report Bradley

- Bradley purchased a Zoom subscription
- Still ca. \$45 left in operating budget; unsure whether reimbursed Ellen for tractor use on pollinator garden. **Ed** will follow up and get an invoice from Ellen. Agreed on \$50.
- Luke suggested constructing a bench for the pollinator garden.
- Suggested getting the 2nd smaller weed wrench and supplement Ed's grant with the Operation Fund. **Ed** will follow up with Bobbi.

- Suggestion to spend operation fund balance on natural history books for the library.
- Members agreed to this and were asked to each suggest a title

Martin Bridge Management Plan

- Town has many documents re. MCB
- Bradley copied those pertinent to management
- **Bradley** will put copies on Google Drive
- SBd is enthusiastic about us drafting a management plan

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Grant

- Bradley & Anne attended steering committee meetings
- Zoom meeting with town but also 2 facilitators and a person from EPA who explained the process. Tried to get a handle on town vision.
- 2nd meeting was just the steering committee which delved into focus of the of the effort. Next meeting will visit various rec areas in town with the facilitators & EPA staffer.
- Intent is to grow the recreational activities without negatively affecting the character of the town.
- Brainstorming included trail building, information kiosk, connecting existing recreation opportunities, etc.

Watershed Grant Updates: Tabled

New Business:

- Suggestion to have a naturalist shack at OSC to answer questions
- Cost is \$346 for small weed wrench so will require \$72 from Op Fund. That leaves ca \$73 for books.
- **Bob** will accept offer of book from Half Earth Project.
Note: subsequent to the meeting Bob replied and received email confirmation that the book will be sent.
- **Bob** will bring info re. legislative petition for Invasive Species Day to next meeting
- Luke interested in building a bench for pollinator garden next year.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 12 December, 2022

Approved on: 4 January 2022