

Marshfield Conservation Commission

181st Meeting, 6 December 2023

At Old Schoolhouse & Virtual

Minutes

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

Non-Members Present: Nick Seifert

Minutes: Minutes of November meeting approved as presented

Treasurer's Report:

- \$127.89 remaining in operating budget and ca \$8,000 in Conservation Fund which is raised thru Tree & Shrub sale, Natural Marshfield booklets and donations.
- Outstanding costs
 - Attendance for Steve & Bob at FEMC conference, \$21.60 each.
 - Compensation to Bradley for printing costs, ca \$50
 - Leaves ca \$36 balance which could use to purchase batteries for trail camera if not needed for mileage and parking for the conference.

Marshfield Enhanced Energy Plan: Nick Seifert

- Energy committee has developed an EEP to pass onto the Select Bd
- They want our input on siting renewable that fits town plan and includes solar & wind and low head hydro although wind map shows minimal potential for wind power in town. The plan would discourage wood or biomass burning.
- Have a draft that needs updates; possibly be done by January.
- Current legislation encourages towns to proactively site renewables which provides the town some standing in the permitting procedures.
- Annie mentioned Lori Barg's previous proposal to create low head hydro on Nasmith Brk above Twinfield.
- Anne suggests bringing the Energy Com draft map to MCC meeting for us to review and compare with our significant habitat and wildlife corridor maps.

Farewell to Taber:

- This is Taber's last meeting.
- Taber has been on the committee since 2015 and was instrumental in moving the inventory forward, leading our annual birding trips and writing grants.
- He was also active in monitoring and control of NNIS along Hollister Hill Rd

- Members collectively thanked him for his dedication and commitment to natural resource protection in the town.

Recruitment of new member:

- Taber has already informed Bobbi of vacancy.
- We should advertise on front porch forum but need a description of the position.
- **Members** are requested to search for a description of the position
- **Members** encouraged to recruit via word of mouth.
- Sara pointed out that there is no max number of commission members

Flood Recovery at Martin Covered Bridge

- We had 2nd work day that resulted in removing berms and grading the area adjacent to the trails; all done by hand.
- Patrick Pfeiffer looked at the gravel path & drainage to bridge. Repairs will be covered by FEMA so can hire a contractor. Rich Philips is researching contractors.
- Steve sent some data from Friends of Winooski that show range of 6 to 18 inches of sediment deposited on the fields and elsewhere.
- **Steve** will follow up with FOTW to get more information as to their protocol and locations of the sediment.
- FOTW also put in a grant to plant 400 trees. Bob questioned what species of shadbush they propose, and whether it could be rare or not native to VT. Everything is to be sourced from Intervale, so presumably all will be local.
- **Steve** will follow up with Michelle Braun at FOTW re shadbush sp, possible planting of willows and contingency if Intervale runs out of material.
- Hayfield restoration is not eligible for FEMA funding.
- Could check if WHIP or Ag related funding might be available.
- Ed suggests that timber at MCB is marginal and value is minimal because buffer needs of seeps and Haydens sedge would limit the area of harvest. Also loggers would need to skid logs up to RR bed.
- He last looked at timber quality ca 10-12 years ago when the property could support a small harvest, but he is unsure of its current condition.
- **Ed** is willing to follow up with field visit.
- Suggestion to condition our assistance with restoring field 1 on allowing field 3 and ideally field 2 to be more natural.
- **Bradley, Bob and Steve** will draft a counter proposal to the SB decision.
- Bradley wants to create a “Friends of MCB” to have a cadre of volunteers available to call.

Plantings and Invasives Removal at Old Schoolhouse Common: Tabled

Land Conservation TNC Resilient & Connected Appalachians Grant Program

- Sara interested as to whether we could apply for this grant. She is willing to search more information if we're interested.
- Bob mentioned add'l parcels that the town will acquire thru FEMA buyouts that could possibly be used to leverage other easements or acquisitions.

Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring: Tabled

Announcements

- Sara brought new printing of wildlife pamphlet and placed the box in our file cabinet

Other Business

- Some members thought we should research other grants in addition to TNC. Counter suggestion was made to review our retreat notes and prioritize projects. We would then search for appropriate funding needed to implement them.
- MCC field trip perhaps to Lord's Hill Old Growth but decided best to wait till spring (tentatively April). **Bradley** will offer a winter tracking trip in Jan, date TBD

Submitted On: 7 Dec 2023

Approved On: _____

Submitted By: Bob Popp