

Marshfield Conservation Commission

159th Meeting (Via Zoom)
2 February, 2022

Minutes

Members Attending: Luke Boushee, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Bradley Materick, Bob Popp, Annie Reed

1. Approval of November Minutes:

- Minutes approved unanimously with one clarification.

2. Treasurer's report: Bradley

- We now have \$300 in our operating funds.

3-.Natural Resources Inventory Project Bob

- Bob mentioned that **Taber** was preparing a justification of the inventory for FPF and **Bob** will be putting information on the MCC page of the town website.
- Suggestion to request that the SB publicly support the inventory if they are so willing
- **Bob** needs to provide a link to longer version on web site.
- Suggestion to include all names on any FPF posts from any of the members.
- Bob requested that once ballots and town report are mailed out that MCC members contact friends & neighbors to encourage them to vote in support of the inventory.
- Request to let MCC members know when receive ballots
- Town Meeting Information Presentation: **Tues, 22 Feb @ 7. Bob & Taber** will attend to answer questions.

4-Stranahan Town Forest draft management plan Ed

- Steve & Ed attended the Stranahan Stewardship Com (SSC) meeting.
- The committee appreciated our comments and accepted the vast majority of them.
- Ed will receive a final draft when all changes are made
- The SSC plans to post signs regarding dogs on the forest
- Forester from VLT feels like there should be some timber management rather than the moratorium that is proposed.. **Ed** will distribute the email from VLT.

5-Pollinator project update Steve

- Steve has been in contact with Bee The Change (BTC) re the pollinator garden.
- BTC will be in touch in early April for site visit
- BTC will provide the seed mix free of charge.
- Will need to convene the pollinator working group of Steve, Ed & Bradley beforehand to finalize logistics.
- Unclear whether cover will be yellow clover or red clover; **Steve** will check on which species.
- The garden will be only ¼ acre
- BTC will provide education materials for us to use.

6-Water Quality sampling 2022 Steve

- Sampled streams with Friends of Winooski
- Included same streams as last year: Sugar Brook tributary, Lyme, Nasmith and Marshfld Brooks.
- Also included Jugg, Molly Brooks, Goat Farm tributary and main stem of Winooski in Plainfield.
- Lat year most streams came out high quality for Sodium and Phosphorus as compared with Cabot stream because of heavier Ag use in Cabot.
- Needs volunteers to collect water samples next year. Commitment is every other week from early June thru August.

7-Effects of Recreational Trails on Wildlife Bob

- Bob summarized study from UVM grad student re impact to wildlife from trails; key findings:
Non-motorized recreation had a greater negative impact than did motorized. Apparently this includes both biking and skiing as well as walking; however impact is greatest during the nesting season so skiing & snowshoeing would presumably have less impact than non-winter use.
- Dogs significantly increase the impact of trail recreation on wildlife.
- The correlation between trail use volume and negative impact was unclear. Ca. half the research found a correlation between use volume and impact to wildlife while the other half found no correlation.
- Studies indicate that the biggest change was from no trails to trails and increasing use had a considerably smaller impact.
- Maximizing core areas without trails by consolidating trails reduces fragmentation and detrimental impact.
- **Ed** will send report to SSC

Watershed Grant:

- Steve looked into it and could be used for monitoring for WQ, fish or macro inverts sampling or education
- Could help with aquatic community assessment to complement Natural Resource inventory. Would use to have a consultant ID specimens
- Any information could be used to upgrade stream reclassification.
- Proposal needs to be submitted **by 11 Feb** with cap of ca \$3,500
- Ed and Luke will help Steve draft a proposal Will meet on Sat, the 5th at 10.

Game Camera Protocol:

- Need to determine a protocol for its use and sharing
- **Bradley** offered to be in charge of it and has drafted guidelines for it use.
- Bradley shared a video of a porcupine and Luke shared a bobcat
- Bradley will send out an email with instructions
- Bob suggested we should learn how to use it in preparation for more focused use during the inventory to identify wildlife corridors and crossings.
- Ed would like to set it up along the drainage behind his house which has lots of wildlife use.

Weed Pullers:

- Ed has not asked STC whether they would go in with us.
- **Ed** will do so at their next meeting. Ideally each committee would purchase one so we'd have two.
- **Ed** will provide a recommendation as to which one to purchase.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 6 February 2022

Approved on: 2 March 2022