

Marshfield Conservation Commission
171st Meeting
1 February 2023 at Old Schoolhouse Common & Virtual
MINUTES

Discussion & approval of January minutes Bradley (Bob absent)

Martin Bridge Management Plan

- Question whether we make a subcommittee for the Martin Bridge management plan? Bradley and possibly Bob would be part of this subcommittee
- There would be a lot of field work to be done.
- Bradley shared a checklist that he used at VYCC for stewardship. It goes through everything you could conserve/manage on a piece of land. Requested that everyone take a look at it and send notes to Bradley if there are things that need to be added?
- There doesn't seem to be any push to do any timber harvesting at Martin Bridge. Does it make sense to do an assessment?
- Bradley suggested a moratorium on mowing
- It was suggested that it be brought to the March selectboard meeting. Bring it as a moratorium for the purpose of reassessing when and where to mow and not to address the issue that there may be some out of bounds mowing happening now

Cross VT Trail Association (Guest: Greg Western)

- Greg Western is interested in being involved in the MB planning process
- Visit to MB with Greg & VHCD Stewardship Director, Isaac Bissell – February 22nd at 10:00 AM to discuss the first steps for management planning.
- Greg Western is interested in taking care of the old RR bed, especially between desired destinations, parks, schools, etc.
- CVTA interested in stewarding the portion of the RR bed on the Martin Bridge property. The town owns part and the other part is conserved, with an easement. They'd be looking for an easement for CVTA from the town so they can maintain the mud, erosion, drainage issues. They would help with weedwhacking, etc.
- Greg thought that since a management plan was in process this was a good time to express CVTA's interest.
- CVTA wants to protect as much of the RR bed as possible even if it is one landowner at a time.
- They are also interested in connecting to other trail networks
- One of the landowners has asked that trails be marked and designated so people don't wander into their backyard. Doesn't want to post it.

Treasurer's Report Bradley

Final accounting for 2022

- Conservation fund has balance of ~\$13,000

- Includes some funds from the watershed grant that will go back, that is some portion of this total
- We may owe dues to AVCC
- Operating budget back up to \$300

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities > Anne & Bradley

Report on the results of last weekend's Public Workshop & Role of the MCC in this community process

- Probably about 50 people there Friday. Saturday about 16 people.
- The facilitators did a good job of keeping people focused and making decisions.
- One idea discussed was the bike path in the Stranahan and Annie felt that was the Stranahan's committees issue.
- There was a lot of interest in Forest Farmers property for hiking, biking or skiing on their trails.
- Also interest in the Cross Vermont Trail.
- There will be 3 follow up meetings to come up with an action plan. The facilitators will write up the actual action plan.

Other ideas:

- Expanding trails around School House Commons.
- Making recreation equipment available as a lending library,
- Suggestion to use universal signage
- There was a lot of sketching of trails on maps including Forests Farmers down to the village store,
- Discussion re. making the village more pedestrian friendly,
- Suggestion to put out a phenology newsletter and making a website for Marshfield outdoor opportunities,
- Bradley suggested putting current MCC projects in the action plan. MCC can also make sure that the proposed trails aren't going to negatively impact the environment

Town Meeting Will be in person on March 7th, so want to request a table

- Question as to whether we want to have a display or present anything?
- Suggestion to present results from the watershed grant and the natural resources inventory (we're expecting a draft report sometime soon).
- Bradley could have a laptop with wildlife videos.
- We could sell Marshfield booklets.

Plant Sale update Anne

- Cabot proposed a name change. But that was nixed?
- Posters have been printed
- There has been \$600 in sales the first day it was up online
- Considering a 5% discount for cash orders possibly by next year because card orders charge a fee online
- Breaking down day the 29th

- Distribute order forms at school house commons
- Order forms are on Cabot town website

Tiny Grant >

- Ed has received the weed wrenches
- If the snow goes down again this winter, we'd begin to use them, otherwise late April
- We could also do invasive control at the Old School House Common

Natural Resources Inventory

- Draft Report expected sometime this month
- Bob and Taber thought it would be good to have a short presentation summarizing the results for Town Meeting. Also suggested that Brett and Matt prepare a one page hand out about the inventory to hand out at Town Meeting that would be followed by a public meeting detailing the results of the Natural Resource Inventory at a later date.

Drafted by : Luke Boushee

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 25 February, 2023

Approved on: 1 March, 2023