

Marshfield Conservation Commission
162nd Meeting (Old Schoolhouse & Zoom)
4 May, 2022
Minutes

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

Non Members: Mike Kiernan, director of Bee the Change

Approval of Minutes:

1. March Minutes: Approved unanimously
2. April Minutes. Approved unanimously

Treasurer's report: Bradley

- Bobbi will pay inventory invoices upon Taber's approval
- Plant sale proceeds will be split 3 ways expect \$600 to \$650 to each commission.
- Will be an upcoming debriefing meeting and selection of next years species.

Bee the Change: Pollinator field project: Steve

- Bee the Change; started ca 7 yrs ago to promote habitat for pollinators. They work closely with many solar providers
- They are trying to create pollinator habitat in each of VT's towns and provide signage for educational purposes. Already established in 25 towns.
- Propose the pollinator garden be located in a mowed field between OSC and river
- Will need to till and seed but may need to repeat or grow a cover crop. Would hand pull weeds annually for a few years, then suggest mowing every 2 or 3 years.
- Anticipating starting sometime in June will provide ca week notice
- Would like to have a planting party ideally involving the school
- They generally request donations from businesses in towns to offset their carbon footprint.
- Use both seeds and plants; some that they grown themselves. Get some from Meadows which is locally grown but of unknown provenance.
- Suggestion to donate \$100 to Bee the Change to defray some of their costs.
- **Motion** to provide \$100. Approved unanimously

Natural Resource Inventory Project: Taber and Bob

- Taber met with Brett and Matt re. the timeline of the inventory.
- Landscape analysis has begun. Plan to provide list of priority sites by May 16th.
- We can conduct interviews with knowledgeable folks; they will send an outline of questions. We would brainstorm names, but need to do immediately. Will share a document that we can all add to
- Matt will create a Google Doc that has priority sites for visitation along with landowners
- Con Com will contact landowners for permission to visit; will complete the permission column in the Google Doc. But also would fill out a permission form documenting with whom we spoke. **Bob** will provide a template
- We are welcome to accompany Matt or Brett if we can keep up as are LOs but not encouraged since can slow them down.
- **Bob** will provide a script for gaining permission
- MCC members could also focus on visiting lower priority sites.
- Plan to have a call when list of sites is available.

Field Trips Announcement

- Mothers Day Wildflower walk 1:30 to 3:30
- Bird Walk on May 21st 7:30 to 10 limit to 15 folks

Trail Camera: Bradley

- Bradley offered to set up trail camera for others interested.
- Bob suggested using it for enhancing the inventory; possible creating a short video to present with the final inventory report.
- Bradley suggested best done in winter.

Watershed Grant: Steve

- Grant was signed by SB and State for \$2,528
- Need to purchase materials and contract with taxonomist. Then need to submit project plan for approval from state.
- Field portion entails a couple days in 1st two weeks of Sept, then few days of lab work to sort thru samples. Steve will need help with these portions.
- Uncertain whether report will be a stand alone or incorporated into the Natural Area Report.
- Focus will be more on streams than lakes. Stream classification is dependent on gradient and size.
- Could also use the data to upgrade the stream classification.

Future Meetings:

- Sara needs to temporarily step aside from facilitating; need someone to facilitate and draft the agenda.
- Bradley willing to draft the agenda and send out a request for items.
- Suggestion to post agenda on Front Porch Forum

Water Quality Monitoring: Steve

- Began sampling ca. 2 weeks ago.
- Will sample every other Sunday thru July 31st. Have three groups conducting sampling.

Other Business;

- Luke has spare wood duck boxes
- They need yearly maintenance and a predator guard

Submitted By: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 10 May 2022

Approved On: 1 June, 2022