

Marshfield Conservation Commission

175th Meeting, June 7, 2023

Old Schoolhouse and Virtual

Minutes

Members Present: Anne Miller, Steve Fiske, Bob Popp, Sarah Norton, Bradley Materick

Virtual: Ed Jalbert, Annie Reed and Luke Bushee

Non Members: Matt Peters

Minutes: April minutes approved as presented

Treasurers Report:

- Luke is taking over from Bradley as treasurer
- We received \$599 from tree & shrub sale. Proceeds are now split 3 ways although Cabot agreed to accept fewer funds this year.

Natural Community Inventory:

- Discussed compensating the contractor for a portion of the work they did over budget to complete the report.
- Approve unanimously to reimburse the contractor for \$1,000 out of our Conservation Fund.
- Matt (and possibly Brett) is willing to attend a future meeting to answer any questions about the report.
- **Bob** will inform Taber of decision and ask him to connect with SB re. paying the invoice.

Retreat Followup

- Bradley handed out summary of planning efforts that he and Sarah drafted.
- It provides bullets for all the projects that members expressed interest with pursuing along with point people and a timeline.
- We will refer back to this over the next year or so and complete the timelines.

Martin Covered Bridge

- Bob and Bradley flagged the buffer for the wetland and the rare sedge.
- They then met onsite with Tim McClay to review the flagging.
- Tim disagreed with the need for the larger buffer adjacent to the wetlands but agreed to adhere to it. We also removed the buffer from the mowed trails.
- Tim is also haying the other two fields by the stone circle which was not intended in the original plan. We agreed to the status quo this year since the hay is already promised,

but told him that it would likely change in the future with the understanding that if not hayed, it will need to be brushhogged.

- Tim agreed to wait for 2nd mowing until mid August after mowing around June 1
- We sent an email to the Select Bd summarizing the above and told them to expect a draft management plan by Fall.
- Suggestion to have a **site visit with the** Commission later this summer

Nat Community Inventory:

- Members need to review the report and discuss
- Consider having a hard copy in the library if does not contain sensitive material.

Stranahan Mt Bike Trails:

- Bike group is proposing to repurpose existing trails and not create new ones.
- STC wants our review of the proposal.
- Decided to provide a review of the proposed trail following the site visit scheduled for **this Saturday at 10**
- Ed and Annie will attend the site visit
- Members expressed concerns about new use of existing hiking trails especially impacts to wildlife and sensitive areas and safety concerns and also disrupting the sense of solitude on the trails.

Pollinator Garden

- Bee the Change has reseeded the garden, but no obvious results. Drought afterwards might have slowed down germination.

Water Quality

- Had 3 samplings so approximately halfway thru the sampling season
- Bill pending to mandate stream reclassification by the state rather than requiring petitioning by towns. If passed, it will require that stream be managed at their highest level
- Steve wants to wait to petition for reclassification in hopes will be legislatively mandated.

Tree & Shrub Sale

- Suggestion to work with local nurseries to provides us with a commission.
- Plainfield will run the sale next year. Anne will no longer run the sale for Marshfield.
- The sub committee of the three towns will meet again in August

Invasive Control

- Annie and Ed tried weed pullers. Found smaller one more to be more effective
- Suggest doing again on **June 24th at 1 Pm at MCB**
- The idea is to have all members familiar with the weed wrenches and then we would open it up to public participation.

Submitted By: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 8 June 2023

Approved On: 5 July 2023