

Marshfield Conservation Commission
175th Meeting, July 5th, 2023 at Old Schoolhouse

Minutes

Members Present: Taber Allison, Luke Bushee, Steve Fiske, Bradley Materick, Anne Miller, Sara Norton and Bob Popp

Non Members: None

Minutes: June minutes approved as presented

Treasurers Report:

- Luke has taken over as Treasurer
- Luke will follow up with Bobbi to assure that final invoice for inventory was paid.
- We need to make purchases throughout the year rather than waiting until the end of the fiscal year.

Administrative:

- Town is soliciting bids on better WiFi Pollinator Garden:
- Steve and Bradley weeded the pollinator garden and Bee the Change folks sent two interns. Garden is now looking good.
- Bee the Change has posted three signs discussing pollination.
- Would like to create some bee nesting habitat consisting of logs with holes and also some stumps or other bench type things.
- **Steve and Luke** will follow up on the bee houses and benches.
- Future weeding activities could be a link for community involvement

Tree and Shrub Sale:

- Discussion of proposal from three Con Coms to change the format of the plant sale.
- Involves partnering with one or more nurseries to sell plants with CCs getting a commission.
- Consider making it a weekend rather than a single day.
- Concern over promoting the planting of non-native species and also natives sourced from far away if we contract with nurseries.
- Have been getting plants from Coldstream (Mich) and Nikko in Plnflld
- Another option is to sell coupons that would be good for native spp at local nurseries, but we would need to provide a list of appropriate species.
- We typically have a 30% markup and net ca \$500 to \$800

- Reps from 3 towns will meet again to discuss whether and how to implement these changes.

Stranahan Mt Bike Proposal

- Site visit attended by MCC, STC, Mt Bike Comm & few members of public.
- One concern is that the Mt Bike group will keep pushing for ever more trails.
- Each member was polled as summarized below:
 - A member is opposed to any new trails and feels there is no justification for the increased use. Doesn't want every trail categorized as multiple use;
 - Another member is not opposed to bike trails but sees some uses as incompatible with existing uses;
 - Another member is opposed to current proposal but is open to investigating other options as outlined below;
 - Another member is also opposed to current proposal but questions whether other options are available;
 - Another member is opposed to current proposal but questions whether trails could instead focus on connecting Martin Cvd Bridge to RR bed and then to the Forest Farmers property;
 - Another member is ambivalent. While not supportive, they feel that the STF trails could probably accommodate the use with minimal impact to natural resources & other users. Could also upgrade Thompson Rd to support biking;
 - Another member understands the bike group's rationale but they would prefer trails be situated elsewhere other than STF
- There was a general agreement in opposition of opening additional trails on STF to mt biking. There were concerns for natural resources but also interest in the forest as a whole and the impact of additional bike trails on other uses. Members were open to connecting to trails off the forest, such as MCB, the rail bed and Forest Farmers.
- Suggestion to advocate strongly for connection to MCB and Forest Farmers trails.
- STF Committee will be having a public meeting prior to issuing a decision.
- **Bradley** will draft a letter to the Stranahan Stewardship Com & provide a draft for review.

Announcements

- Fall foliage festival will be in late Sept early Oct. No firm date as yet, but we should consider field trip to STF or elsewhere.
- Taber discussed deer jacking on Hollister Hill Rd.

Submitted By: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 10 July 2023

Approved On: 2 August 2023