

Marshfield Conservation Commission
177th Meeting
September 6th, 2023

In Attendance: Bradley Materick (Facilitator), Taber Allison, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Annie Reed

Tour of Old Schoolhouse Commons [Bradley's notes]

- Discussion regarding re-creating a loop trail to replace the old "river" trail to Marshfield Brook that was damaged in the July flooding, including a footbridge connecting to the island created by the flooding and creation of a new river channel
- Members recognized the need for coordination with other groups that are discussing trail development
- Pollinator garden – several species have survived (Cardinal Flower, Partridge Pea, etc.) and are flowering; most of the tree plantings survived. There is major rocky sediment deposition through the center of the garden two to three in depth that we are considering as a permanent addition to the garden.
- It was suggested that Commission members organize a planting in coordination with Friends of the Winooski and the High School, perhaps in October.

Discussion & Approval of August meeting's minutes – minutes approved as presented

Treasurer's Report – no report

Stranahan Town Forest

- No formal response yet to the Commission's letter regarding the mountain biking proposal
- There was discussion of possible trail remediation work under consideration by the Stranahan Stewardship Committee
- The Commission recommends that interested parties, e.g., VAST Marshfield chapter are consulted prior to any work or contracting

Planning for Fall Foliage Festival

- Commission members were asked to volunteer to staff the MCC table at the Festival
- There as discussion about leading field walks for Festival on October 1st, 11 a.m., and ideas included Beaver Meadows, highlights of Natural Resource Inventory, tour of Stranahan

Natural Resources Inventory Report

- Member review of the reported resulted in several suggestions to enhance its value and accessibility to the public, including links to provide further information, copyediting, footnotes or glossary for a handful technical terms (e.g., varve, marl), sidebars, e.g., What is a Natural Community
- Have requested an editable version of the report from the Report authors

Flood damage at Martin Bridge Park (MBP)

- The Commission reviewed the discussion, mostly by email, regarding debris removal around the Bridge; activity was halted out of concerns regarding FEMA guidelines about floodplain
- Commission members are developing a management plan for the MBP this Fall for approval by the Marshfield Selectboard
- Reviewed “Flood Recovery Tasks” for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024; additional ideas were solicited

Plant Sale Updates

- No updates on 2024 Plant Sale

New Business – there was no new business

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm.

Submitted By: Taber Allison

Submitted On: 7 Sept 2023

Approved On: