

Marshfield Conservation Commission

156th Meeting (Via Zoom)  
6 October, 2021, 7:00 PM

## **Minutes**

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Bradley Materick, Anne Miller (on phone), Sara Norton, Bob Popp

Non-Members: Luke Boushe

Minutes: September Minutes approved unanimously.

### Treasurers Report:

- Bradley requested that for any reimbursement to please email him with amount and purpose.
- Conservation Fund including plant sale (\$1,172) and sales of 36 booklets now at \$12,699.
- Operating Fund \$237- \$8 for plant mats so \$229. Terminates end of the year.
- Plant sale nurseries requesting prepayment. **Anne** will ask Bobbi whether could use operation fund for this.
- Sara suggested purchasing wildlife camera. **Bradley** will research cameras.

### Flood Resilient Communities Fund

- Oct 29 deadline to submit a concept proposal, followed Jan 31st date for actual proposal.
- Primary purpose is to purchase properties at high threat of flooding that are outside the FEMA flood hazard area. Also for floodplain restoration to increase flood storage capacity & reduce flood risk.
- Focus would be on increasing floodplain capacity of town Martin Covered Bridge or Old Schoolhouse properties.
- **Steve and Ed** will discuss further

### Pollinator Habitat Project:

- Steve sent around a summary about the pollinator project.
- Also included a list of tasks for the commission to pursue (**See Addendum**)
- Need to till area and plant red clover as a cover the year prior. Following year till in clover and plant pollinator mixture.

**Note:** some uncertainty as to whether this is yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) which is not native to N.A. Addendum refers to red clover so need to determine which species they are planning to use.

- Garden would be in back field between chestnuts & walnuts.
- We have still have not received the composition of the official seed mix
- Bee the Change provides the seed mixes, but we'd need to till and plant the fields and create educational signage.
- Suggestion to involve a class at Twinfield: Charlie Wanzer or Julie Shedd would be the contacts.
- Create workgroup: Steve, Ed, Bradley, but others interested in being kept informed.
- **Ed** will look into obtaining a tiller

#### Old Schoolhouse Plantings:

- Steve needs 3 or 4 folks from 9 to 12 on Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> to work at Old Schoolhouse mulching, fertilizing and weeding plants.
- Ed can assist and possibly Bradley & Bob

#### Town Inventory Report: Taber

- Group decided to hire consultant to undertake the landscape reconnaissance phase as well as site visits.
- MCC would identify landowners and request permission and could participate in site visits depending on interest and availability.
- Town will be receiving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that need to be spent in next three years (must be allocated by 2024).
- Taber drafted a letter to present to the Select Bd.
- Taber would like to present our request to SB at their Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Taber** will revise the letter per additional comments and resend to members.
- Members agreed to go forward with the proposal.

#### Cross Vermont Trail Update

- Bradley informed us that Greg Western, director of Cross Vt Trail, provided an update
- Greg has spoken with most of the landowners and has had good responses.
- Greg has been invited to submit a proposal for a grant from VT Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative and inquired whether he could list MCC as an organization with whom he is working.
- He would also like to attend our next meeting to provide an update.

## Addendum for Pollinator Garden:

Tasks for commission

1-Signage for the garden explaining the benefit to bees and other pollinators, **Spring 2022, and 2023**

2-Mark off design of the garden **Spring 2022** – concept is to mark out a path(s) thru the field for walking and observing the pollinators. Also serve as markings for the grass mowing of path. See concept map.

3- Till the area and plant with **red clover, Spring 2022** – find local tractor tiller (or use middlebury college tiller) MCC, Middlebury college students, Mike Kiernan. Seeds from pollinator project grp.

4- Till in clover, plant pollinator mix for VT **Spring 2023** - find local tractor tiller (or use middlebury college tiller) MCC, Middlebury college students, Mike Kiernan. Seeds from pollinator project grp.

5- Make and install a few benches **Summer 2023**– wooden/log – to sit and observe, photograph pollinators, wildlife.

6- Add plants/seed in patches where appropriate **Spring 2024/yearly** – Small tiller or hand tools

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 12 October, 2021

Approved on: 3 November 2021