

3 Marshfield Conservation Commission

115th Meeting

1 November 2017

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Sarah Norton, Bob Popp, Annie Reed (Chair), and Rachel Rudi

Minutes: October minutes approved unanimously as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Bobbi provided a copy of Treasurer's Report. There was one new expense of \$36 for mineral mix for tree plantings at OSC.

BioFinder Presentation: Bob

- Bob provided a brief tutorial to the ANR BioFinder. Link at <http://biofinder.vt.gov/>
- It was suggested to provide this information to the planning commission and/or DRB for them to identify significant natural features in town.
- It was suggested that they may benefit from a tutorial on its use and also that we may need to provide hard copy. This may entail providing multiple maps in order to display all the pertinent layers.
- Question arose as to whether the town can protect features that are not identified in town plan
- Suggestion to provide both the PC and DRB with a checklist of significant features that are of local or regional importance.
- Suggestion for the MCC to make a series of maps depicting important features, such as Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species, Significant Natural Communities, Vernal pools, Wetlands, Wildlife corridors, Prime Ag Soils, and possibly others.

Bob will contact the Planning Commission to determine their interest & Jens Hilke in Dept of Fish & Wildlife.

Note: subsequent to the meeting Bob spoke with Jens who stated that resources must be mentioned in the town plan in order to be protected by the town.

Allen will post a query on the AVCC list serve to determine how other commissions are using BioFinder.

Wildlife Pamphlet: Sarah

- Sarah provide a mock up of a proposed pamphlet which is intended primarily for education of the public on the needs of various wildlife species.
- Suggestions to add links to F&W website, BioFinder, Natural Resource Atlas, VTInvasives, contact for Co. Forester,
- Suggestion to focus on habitat fragmentation rather than overall loss of forest
- **Bob** will add a section on invasive species, especially how invasives degrade habitat & how are they dispersed. What property owner can do?
- **Steve**, will provide a section on water resources and erosion due to roads
- **Annie** will draft a section on why wildlife is important

- **All write-ups will be submitted to Sarah by Nov 15th**
- Commission thanked Sarah for her efforts in drafting the pamphlet.

Stranahan Stewardship Committee:

- Horse advocates came to previous meeting to request add'l trails
- Requested turning High Ridge trail into horse trail; need to widen & regrade, so would be 10 to 12 ft wide. Could also be used as x country trail
- Horses are currently restricted to Thompson Rd and Moonfield Trail.
- Mt Bikers have proposed new trail leading from to Moon Field; this was approved by the Select Bd.

Harvest Festival

- Thanks to Rachel and Allen for staffing our booth

Celebrity Naturalist Series

- Tuesday 7th at 7 at Goddard, Ben Kilham on bears

Old Schoolhouse Planting:

- Planting at old schoolhouse at noon on Saturday, the 4th
- Members should bring shovels
- We have 6 donated trees: 2 pears, 4 apples all full size, all donated by Niko Rubin ca. \$260 worth of plants
- Also received donations of stakes from Ed, mulch from Allen, and fencing from Anne
- Members all signed a letter of thanks to Niko.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 5 November

Approved on: 3 January