

Marshfield Conservation Commission
146th Meeting
9 November, 2020 via Zoom

Members Present: Bradley Materick, Anne Miller, Sarah Norton, Bob Popp, and Annie Reed

Non-Members: None

Minutes: October Minutes approved unanimously as presented

Treasurer's Report: None

Natural Marshfield Update:

- Stargazing with Bradley on Sat. Hike to moonfield from Jake Martin Rd. People told to bring chairs & blankets. Trip has filled up with waiting list.
Note: the trip was subsequently cancelled due to the Corona virus spike.
- Subsequent trips: Tracking and Winter survival perhaps in January
- Anne questioned whether it is safe to continue trips during the pandemic
- Bob reported that people maintained social distance during the bird trip but acknowledged there was no need to crowd since the birds were at a distance
- Decided to continue trips but will check in monthly to review the pandemic state and to ensure safety
- Bob discussed the Berlin Pond bird trip and the conflict with waterfowl season.
 - Due to parking concerns we met at the south end of the pond where there were some waterfowl hunters in a blind. Not only did the shooting scare off most birds, but we also witnessed a duck being shot. This was understandably disturbing to many participants. As we later discussed most of the participants were not anti-hunting, but rather were taken by surprise by the shooting of a bird that they had come to observe. We decided to reconvene at Wrightsville Res where there was no hunting activity.
- Bradley mentioned a local bee keeper who wants to start hives and inventory for pollinators in the Spring.

Waterwise Woodlands update

- Bradley reported on meeting
- Cabot CC is interested in collaborating with us on the annual tree sale.
- **Anne** will contact the Plainfield Commission, the Cabot CC, and Sarah Alpert. Although Sara now longer resides in Plainfield she may still be willing to design the flyer.
- Cabot used Communities Caring for Canopies to solicit a grant from FPR for tree plantings. **Bradley** will insert the information into Google Drive

Cross VT Trail update

- Bob heard from Greg Western who asked him to contact owners of 2 parcels along the RR bed in Marshfield to inquire whether they would be willing to meet with him.

Old Schoolhouse Signs update

- Annie mentioned that cow parsnip is still visible.
- Bradley emailed signs to Rich Baker for SB approval. He has not heard back
- **Bradley & Allen** will mount on board & laminate.

VACC Summit Update

- Keynote address on Weds by Paul Costello
- Dec 18th Gus Speth will speak on Economics of Conservation. Sponsored by Salisbury Conservation Com. Register via VACC link.

Stranahan update

- Annie observed a trail crew on Sunday working on trails.
- Some maple tubing being replaced.

EAB trap update

- EAB exoskeleton on Hollister Hill Rd but not counted as definitive
- Pigeon Pond Rd trap had definitive EAB so now has been confirmed for Marshfield

Community Garden and Tree planting update: Tabled

iNaturalist and virtual bio blitz update: Tabled

New business

- Annie has become frustrated over members who don't attend meetings or communicate re. their intention to participate in meetings. Other members echoed this concern. May want to consider amending the bylaws to address this.
- Annie would like to step down as chair, but will remain on the commission.
- Need to better figure out the logistics of meetings and communications re. attendance to ensure we have a quorum.
- Sarah suggested sending the agenda out earlier
- Need to have members recommit to being on the committee.
- **Bob** will put in the email with the minutes to encourage maximize participation at our December meeting.
- All members present thanked Annie and expressed their appreciation for her term as chair.

Announcements

- Cabot Conservation Commission presentation on their Natural Community Inventory. Virtual meeting on **Monday, Nov16th at 7.**

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 15 November, 2020

Approved on: 2 December 2020