

Marshfield Conservation Commission
150th Meeting
3 March, 2021 via Zoom

Members Present: Taber Allison, Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Bradley Materick, Anne Miller, Sarah Norton, Bob Popp, and Annie Reed

Non-Members: None

Minutes: February minutes approved unanimously as presented

Treasurer's Report:

- Allen provided the report via email
- We have ca. 11,481 in Conservation Fund
- Allen will not be seeking reappointment;
- It was noted that he was one of the original members;
- Members thanked Allen for his commitment and all he did for the Commission especially his concern for the Winooski River and picking up trees for the sale.
- Question of whether we need a treasurer for the committee. Allen used to call the town clerk the day prior to the meeting and request a report. Often there was no change.
- Suggestion to ask the Town Clerk to email us a financial report every month.
- Sara pointed out that our by laws mandate a treasurer.
- Others thought we at least need a point person.
- **Bradley** volunteered to be Treasurer.

New Members:

- Steve suggested advertising the position on Front Porch Forum.
- **Annie** will post on FPF and we'll request that Bobbi put it on town website.
- Will also post the vacancy at the Stranahan at Martin Bridge kiosks

Report on Town Natural Area Inventory Taber

- Had a meeting the previous week where we reviewed our list of tasks.
- Group consists of Taber, Annie, Bradly, Bob, Ed and Steve for aquatics. Divided tasks among the group.
- Taber has posted everything on Google Drive including inventory reports from Calais, Plainfield and draft report from Cabot. Folks need to be approved to access the Drive.
- We decided to include both state and locally significant features in the inventory.
- Next meeting is on the 10th of March.

- **Bradley** will send the previous link to Google Drive to Sara to determine her ability to access.

Tree and Shrub Sale: Anne

- Cabot will be participating in a learning role but won't receive any funds this year.
- In subsequent years they will receive funding so we'll likely take in fewer funds unless amount of sales can be increased.
- Allen suggested that the coordination among the 3 town committees is more important than just the fund raising aspect.
- Was pointed out that we will have an increased need for funds due to the inventory.
- Question of how many Plainfld commissioners participate. Last year we kept all the funds since there was no assistance from Plnfld other than Sarah Alpert.
- Members agreed to expand the sale to include Cabot

Fundraising Ideas:

- Push sales of the booklet, both in venues and at events.
- Suggestion to raise price to \$5.
- Suggestion to sell stainless steel water bottles.
- Suggestion to sell T shirts and/or hats
- Some members thought that selling merchandise other than the booklet and the tree/shrub sale, was getting away from our mission.
- Suggestion to solicit add'l funds from the town and get a line item from the budget committee and/or look into other grants to offset costs of the inventory
- Recreation Committee embarked on a successful Go Fund Me campaign

Stranahan TF Mgt Plan for Old Field

- Two new members have replaced members that resigned.
- Management plan is still in process
- Area west of cellar holes along Thompson Rd ca. 10-15 acres is only remaining old field on the property.
- Suggest splitting it up into 1-2 acre sections and manage one section each year by releasing apple tree, and/or girdling trees to keep in an early successional state.
- SSC has not yet agreed to allow this.
- Ed is **soliciting input from this committee** on this proposal.

AVCC

- Allen had been a point person for AVCC.

- Do we need someone to accept that role, i.e. responding to email queries and participating in discussions? To be determined.

Other Business

- Ed concerned about Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) on a neighbor's property which is beginning to spread into the woods. Owner has asked for our assistance.
- Ed suggests either digging it up or cutting and herbiciding, but decided to cut once or twice a year to keep it from fruiting.
- Forest Farmer's easement rollout on **April 20th at 5:30. Steve will provide link**
- DEC Watershed Program will hold informational meeting re. petition to upgrade 3 streams to Class A on **March 30th. Steve will provide link.**
- Marshfield has some high quality streams that are mentioned in Winooski Basin plan

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: March 8, 2021

Approved on: April 7, 2021