

Marshfield Conservation Commission

98th Meeting

6 April 2016

Members Attending: Anne Miller, Annie Reed (Chair), Taber Allison, Sara Norton, Steve Fiske, and Bob Popp

Others: Jon Groveman

Minutes: February minutes were reviewed and approved with a few typos.

Note: there was no meeting in March

Planning Discussion: Jon Groveman

- Planning Commission (PC) is planning series of public forums
- Updated town plan ca. 3.5 yrs ago, needs to be updated every 5 yrs
- Current plan has strong natural resource section, also addresses vibrancy of the village, & maintenance of rural community character.
- Subdivision by laws were revised with few public comments.
- PC did a survey of zoning regs. No indication of desire to change districts.
- PC doesn't want to make any changes w/o public input
- There are few restrictions in rural residential district, mostly regarding lot size and set-backs. Zoning regs don't address natural resources.
- Forums will be on Thurs, May 19th and June 16th They will look at current zoning and assess town sentiment as to whether they should be modified.
- PC has applied for 2 grants but both denied apparently due to lack of village center
- Discussed possibility of PC supporting MCC municipal planning grant application
- PC would like one person as a liaison between MCC & PC. **Allen & Bob** will both consider being the liaison.
- **Jon** will provide a list of coverages for town map for us to review.
- PC meets 1st & 3rd Thurs of month except during summer.

Membership:

- Yesterday was deadline for applications for the MCC; apparently we received one or more applications
- Annie requested that Select Bd consult with us re. new member.

Plant Sale:

- Deadline for orders is Friday, the 8th
- Friday, April 29th @3:30 is set up @ Bram Tobin's barn at corner of Middle and Flood Rd
- Distribution is 9 to 11 on Sat, 30th in Plainfield Village
- **Annie, Anne, Allen, Sara** will help setup on Friday
- **Taber, Allen, Bob** will help distribute on Saturday

Natural Marshfield:

- Annie will fill in for Susan Sawyer on Thurs 21st program on vernal pools
- Sue Morse presentation got ca. \$160 in contributions. Want to continue the speaker series with speakers other than Sue Morse. Tentatively called "Celebrity Speaker Series".
- George Longenecker wants to have a town forest exchange where walk each other's TF.

NOTE: subsequent to the meeting this was scheduled for Sunday, Apr 17th @ 9AM

Stranahan Town Forest:

- At their last meeting the SB dismissed the Stranahan stewardship Com and requested that interested folks apply for newly created committee.
- Announcement of application deadline will be posted on FPF
- Set a cap of 7 members, at least one from the MCC also included a conflict of interest policy
- No mention of who has oversight over contract compliance or who is responsible for checking references.
- New proposed bike trail is on hold until new committee appointed. Members felt the proposed route should be checked in the field in addition to viewing maps.
- The SB apparently accepted Jenny and Ed's map of areas on STF that are suitable for logging in the future.
- **Annie** will contact the SB re. job description

Five Year Plan:

- Anne has had discussion with road foremen about scheduling mowing to avoid spreading invasives, such as having 2 mowings per year. Foreman suggested this was difficult due to vacations. Mowing is fit in as time and staffing permit.
- Takes ca. 6 weeks to mow all town roads
- Anne will suggest mowing earlier in August. She and Annie will also map invasives
- Suggestion to combine the Natural Areas inventory, connectivity, and phenology study

Submitted by : Bob Popp

Submitted on: 11 April 2016

Accepted on: 4 May 2016