

Marshfield Conservation Commission
152nd Meeting
5 May, 2021 via Zoom

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

Non-Members: None

Minutes: April minutes approved unanimously as presented

Treasurer's Report: Bradley

- Confirmed that the Commission has a \$300 budget for the current Town Fiscal Year.

Facilitation Check In: Sara

- Sara queried the group about how our new facilitation approach is working.
- All comments were very favorable, and members indicated their appreciation for Sara's efforts.

New Members:

- Two individuals have been contacted regarding their interest in membership in the Conservation Commission. The Commission still has one opening.

Forest Farmers Conservation Easement: Steve and Bob

- Steve provided a copy of the Legacy Easement prior to the meeting
- The property will be in the Forestland Conservation Program with the easement held by Dept of FPR
- It is a working forest easement that guarantees public access, but also allows timber harvest as approved by forest management plan. The parcel is also enrolled in UVA
- Easement does not allow motorized use, mountain bikes or equestrian use nor the building of new trails.
- Management plan is updated every 10 years; next revision is 2024
- Members agreed that would ask Kate Sudhoff, Forest Legacy Coordinator, to attend our next meeting and that we would formulate questions for her.
- Members discussed monitoring forest health and a potential role for citizen membership on any monitoring committee. **Ed** will provide Commission members with interpretation of various aspects of the Stewardship Management Plan.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting Steve contacted Kate who will attend our July meeting along with the new Washington Co forester, Rob Nelson.

Water Wise Woodland Update: Bradley

- The group is putting together a focus group of landowners to find out what they know about water quality and managing their land for maintaining water quality. They plan to use the results to determine how to reach out to a larger group of landowners.

Town Inventory: Taber

- Taber described updates to the Timeline, which currently has a completion date for the report of October 2022.
- Meeting this target date will involve several tasks; the timeline is set to provide sufficient time for completion of those tasks and the Final Inventory Report

Stranahan TF Carbon Sequestration: Ed

- Ed presented a proposal to the Stranahan Stewardship Committee to manage up to 500 acres of the Stranahan Forest as a BioReserve with minimal active management
- He suggested there is potential to sell carbon credits.
- The sugaring operation and the fields would not be included in the BioReserve.
- The Committee continues to work on the Forest Management Plan but has not met to discuss Ed's proposal.
- Ed emphasized that he presented this proposal on his own behalf and not as a proposal from the Conservation Commission
- MCC members discussed the proposal and agreed to support it.
- **Ed and Bob** will take this proposal to the full Stranahan Committee as a proposal from the Conservation Commission

Black Walnut Plantings Steve

- Black walnuts were planted and mulched. Cages from the apples and pears were taken to protect the walnuts.
- Steve also did soil testing and results indicated that the soils were deficient in Nitrogen, okay for Potassium, and 'on the edge' for Phosphorus. Fertilizers were added around the plantings to address the deficiencies

Water Quality Sampling: Steve

- Sampling was completed, but no results yet.

Other Business

- Annie reported on the Stranahan Flower Walk. Eleven people attended. Wonderful flowers were seen by all.

- Brett Engstrom, co-leader of the walk, indicated an interest in doing a “Beautiful Trees” walk in the Fall.
- Further interesting discussion took place about what was in bloom and other items of botanical interest, underscoring the wealth of botanical expertise in the Town.

Submitted by: Taber Allison & Bob Popp

Submitted on: May 20, 2021

Approved on: 2 June 2021