

## Marshfield Conservation Commission

### 121st Meeting

6 June 2018

Members Attending: Allen Banbury, Anne Miller, Sara Norton, Bob Popp, Annie Reed, and Rachel Rudi

Nonmembers Attending: Susan Green, Ed Stanack and Rich Philips

Minutes: June minutes approved unanimously with one spelling correction.

Treasurers Report: Allen

- Balance of Conservation Fund \$9,476 vs \$9,868 last month
- Need to determine whether funds were taken from the Conservation Fund rather than the Operating Fund. **Allen** will discuss with Town Treasurer.
- Funds from tree sale netted \$785; we provided some refunds for some sub par material.

Sugaring Operation: Ed Stanak & Susan Green

- Ed Stanak mentioned the sugaring operation owns 2,300 Ac, but also lease additional properties from adjacent landowners, including 800 Ac from Drew Mt. Assoc.
- They are tapping birch as well as maple and have multiple layers of tubing which essentially form a fence according to Susan.
- Ed reviewed forest management plan which states no critical wildlife habitat, RTE plant species, or historic sites would be impacted although not substantiated
- Nine stands referenced for tapping, but probably will occur on most of the 26 stands present on the property. According to Ed plan on ca 200,000 taps on ca 5,000 Ac.
- Property includes 3 drainage headwaters.
- Sugarhouse currently qualifies as a farming structure; but it needs to have 51% of space used for Ag to have that designation.
- Outstanding Questions:
  - whether they need other permits, i.e. wastewater, etc?
  - whether they would need permits to construct roads and wetland, stream crossings.
  - whether there are funds available to remove tubing which has life expectancy of 10 yrs.
- Ed will look into whether add'l permits were acquired and also review the Forest mgt plan.

- Ed questioned whether we want to pursue some options to revise A250 to cover sugar operations &/or factory farms. He mentioned H631 to control commercial sap extraction. It was introduced but never got out of committee so would need to be introduced next leg. Session.

#### Town Plan

- Bob discussed the narrative and map that he and Steve Fiske provided to the Planning Commission as required by Act 171. He was uncertain of the next steps and whether a public hearing would be required.

#### Plant Sale:

- Some add'l folks are requesting refunds for unsuccessful plants. Committee agreed unanimously to provide refunds to those folks requesting them.

#### Emerald Ash Borer:

- **Field Trip on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 Pm** to view infected trees;
- Anne attended training; EAB now occurs in 5 towns: Barre, Groton, Montpelier, Orange, & Plainfield.
- Discussed quarantine and lack of controls for implementing it
- The state is not recommending cutting in advance of infestation.

#### Martin Covered Bridge. Rich Phillips

- Has been hayed outside the FP& wetlands, but local person wants to hay beyond that and on to the knoll.
- Was supposed to delay haying until mid July, but apparently has already occurred.
- Rich currently brushhogs upper portion every ca. 8 or 9 yrs to prevent it becoming reforested.
- Rich will discuss his concerns with SB

#### Stranahan Town Forest:

- STF Committee is working on identifying the class III wetlands and whether to protect them, and if so, how.
- Protecting all the wetlands with buffers would preclude most forestry operations
- STF Committee would like a letter from Con Com providing our guidance. **Note: Ed Jalbert** is working on this but was not at the meeting.
- They will have wetland discussion on Tues, the 26<sup>th</sup> At 6 Pm and the Con Com is invited to attend
- **Annie** will distribute the STF query results.

Wildlife Pamphlet:

- Allen discussed making the pamphlet available to AVCC but they don't have addresses for other commissions.
- Members are concerned with providing digital copies due to loss of quality.
- Bob mentioned that he provided printed pamphlets to Jens and Monica with the state, but has gotten no response from either of them.

Request by Planning Comm member for companion plantings.

- The PC wants to plant comfrey & maybe bergamot, both of which can spread by our tree plantings at OSC.. They promise to maintain them.

Energy Commission

- Anne wants someone to look at the wording for Act 174. Any revisions need to be done by the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Anne** will get a copy and email to members for their review.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 10 June 2018

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_