

Marshfield Conservation Commission
143rd Meeting
5 August, 2020 via Zoom

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

Non-Members: None

Minutes: July Minutes: Approved unanimously as presented

Treasurer's Report:

- Town Clerk sent out report to members. We netted \$680 from the tree and shrub sale.
- Operating fund still with \$300; no expenses as yet.
- Still no payment of AVCC dues because still have not received an invoice.
- Suggestion for Allen to pay \$100 for last two years and will give receipt to Bobbi with caveat that comes from Operating Fund

Waterwise Woodlands: Nothing to report - tabled

Cross Vermont Trail

- Greg Western will join us at September meeting
- Bradley requested that he provide us with materials beforehand

Ash Inventory

- Inventory is completed on all town roads
- Two traps set up: halfway up Pigeon Pond Rd and on Hollister Hill Rd

Signage Along Rec Path

- SB request on how best to manage cow parsnip along Rec Path and also to propose wording for signage to warn the public.
- Annie drafted language for the sign that discusses the uses of the plant and that it is native. She proposes to put a few signs adjacent to some plants.
- She will discuss its toxicity but will also mention that it is edible.
- **Bradley** has offered the use of his laminator and will also do the layout for a sign with a photo and description.
- Suggestion to include a separate poster for poison ivy, but will also have a poster featuring both species at either end of the trail
- Suggestion to include some kind of backing to the signs, either plywood or another material.

Note: subsequent to the meeting Anne checked the rec trail and found no wild parsnip and only minimal cow parsnip and poison ivy. She noted significant increase in knotweed.

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

- Bob discussed the EAB Management Plan and the outstanding questions that we need to answer as well as get getting feedback from the SB about

- Annie pointed out that there is a native predator of the EAB
- **Bob, Annie, and Bradley** will participate in a conference call with Gianna of the Central VT Nat Res Conservation Dist
- They will report back to the MCC. **See end of Minutes.**

Natural Marshfield Brainstorm; Anne and Bradley

- Suggested a change of focus to walks rather than inside presentations
- Bradley typed up notes and shared with the MCC
- Devised a protocol to ensure social distancing including using a “personal PA system:”
- Came up with a list of ideas that could include trips beyond the boundaries of Marshfield despite the “Natural Marshfield” title.
- Could possibly have presentations as a “drive in”
- Webinar on bumblebees and other webinars could be posted on FPF.

Stranahan Update:

- Anne was not able to get in touch with STF members re their trip policy although they are apparently leading walks on the forest.

Forest Legacy Update:

- Moving towards closing on the easement but no date set yet. Need to finalize some documents and also get some additional approvals before closing.
- Staff of Forest, Parks & Rec Dept offered to come discuss the easement which may be good to do as a public outreach to the community.

Announcement:

- Tree warden position is now vacant, SB is looking for volunteers. We need to advertise the position.
- Steve wants to organize a tree planting this fall, possibly focusing on nut trees. We could purchase trees from Nicko, ca \$12 -25 per tree depending if he provides fencing.
- Could possibly get some funding thru the library
- **Taber** created a project for the Town of Marshfield on iNaturalist for virtual Bioblitz to include all taxa. Taber will provide link to members.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 11 August, 2020

Approved on: 2 September 2020

Note: the following meeting occurred on 6 August

Members: Bob Popp, Annie Reed, and Bradley Materick

Select Bd: Rich Baker

CVNRCD: Gianna Petito

RFP released by Dept of FPR for grants related to EAB control and/or outreach

- Deadline for proposal in 30 October
- Need at least a draft EAB Management Plan
- May need approval of tree warden (position vacant) to approve tree removal in town ROW
- Needs to fit with town tree ordinance. (We don't have one according to Rich).
- Town is required to provide a 50% match; uncertain whether can be in kind.
- Grants are up to \$15,000
- If funds used to remove trees, then portion needs to be used to replant
- Would prioritize tree removal based on chosen feature: tree size, roads with greater tree density, or roads with greater use.
- Utilities may do much of the cutting along town roads but may be limited to only one side.

Gianna requested that Marshfield establish an EAB task Force to include:

- 3 members listed above
- Rich will represent SB
- Decided to reach out to Stranahan Stewardship Comm for representation
- Management plan needs comments on the education/disposal section.
- Suggested to revisit Joanne Garton's Resilient Roads report for FPR

We will make a 15 minute presentation to the Select Bd at their 18 August meeting.