

Conservation Commission

Minutes for 9.20

(present: Taber Allison, Allen Banbury, Steve Fisk, Bradley Materick, Ann Miller, Sarah Norton, Annie Reed)

Approved minutes from August 2020 meeting

1) Treasure's report

- No update from the Town Clerk's office on our current balance.
- Allen notified Commission members about our payment of dues for 2019 and 2020 to the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC)

2) Greg Western from Cross VT trail

- Greg discussed getting land-owner permission to cross the rail trail and there was initial discussion about how to make contacts
- Greg also provided a list of people who own property adjacent to the rail bed

3) Signage for Rec field trail

- Plan is to go ahead with completing the signs as commission members' time allows
- Allen will assemble the materials for posting the signs

4) Water Wise Woodlands

- Bradley will follow up with Michelle Braun and possibly serve as point person for the Commission

5) Emerald Ash Borer management plan update

- Discussion on the management plan was tabled

6) Stranahan update

- Annie found 'Chicken of the Woods', Lion's Mane, Puffballs, Oysters, one perfect parasol mushroom during a recent walk in the Stranahan Town Forest

7) Tree Planting progress

- Steve discussed vision of planting the Schoolhouse Commons with edible plants;
- Steve contacted Nikko to get a cost estimate for a planting of chestnut;
- Considering a planting workshop led by Nikko
- It's proposed that some of the funding to support this project would come from the Commission's Conservation Fund
- Commission members unanimously voted to approve use of the Conservation Fund to support this project

8) iNaturalist link for virtual Bioblitz - Taber

- Taber sent the iNaturalist link to the 'Biodiversity of Marshfield' project via email to all Commission members

- There was discussion about further publicizing of the BioBlitz or what is also referred to as ATBI (All Taxon Biotic Inventory)
- Taber will post an announcement on Front Porch Forum along with guidelines/instructions about how people can join the project and contribute sightings.

9) Natural Marshfield trip to Martin Bridge

- Bradley talked about the upcoming field walk, and there was lengthy discussion about numbers of participants that would have all feel safe by enabling distancing, while facilitating hearing by all participants
- Anne talked about purchasing two PA systems for trip leaders; estimated cost would be ~\$100 to enable us to have larger participation

10) New Business

- No new business

11) Announcements

- No announcements

Submitted by: Tabor Allison

Submitted on: 22 September, 2020

Approved on: 8 October 2020