

Marshfield Conservation Commission

155th Meeting (Via Zoom)
Sept 1, 2021, 7:00 PM

Minutes

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Bradley Materick, Ann Miller (on phone), Sara Norton, Bob Popp, Annie Reed

Non-Members: Luke Boushe

Minutes: July Minutes approved unanimously with one abstention.

Note: there was no meeting in August.

Treasurers Report: No Change from previous report.

- **Bradley** will find out whether we've received funds from plant sale.
- Need to spend remaining funds before Jan 1st so folks should think of any projects for which we could utilize the funds.

Discussion of Status of Forest Legacy easement:

- Members recalled that FPR has an established protocol for monitoring the easement, and that MCC would not be able to participate in that monitoring. MCC would need to establish their own protocol with permission from Forest Farmers. This would be in addition to monitoring carried out by FPR. Any monitoring we do might focus on forest birds and invasives rather than cutting & tapping.
- Steve is conducting water quality monitoring on Forest Farmers property.
- Concern that they may be tapping trees below the size threshold which is 10 inch dbh for sugar maple. There is probably no standard for other species that they are tapping.
- Any monitoring we do would likely be more informal where we could bring any concerns to the attention of Forest Farmers.
- Suggestion to periodically visit the forest to get an overall impression of the operation.
- Bradley, Sarah, Ed, Taber, Steve, Bob, Anne all expressed interest in being involved in any informal monitoring.
- Forest Farmers management plan makes no mention of Rare, Threatened or Endangered species, but no inventory was done. **Bob** will check on whether anything is mapped for the property in the Heritage database.

Note: Bob checked following the meeting and found no rare resources. That said, the property was most certainly never inventoried.

Pollinator Habitat Project:

- Steve spoke with Mike Kiernan of Bee the Change who said we were provided with wrong mix.
- Their procedure is to cover crop 1st year then 2nd year they plant the pollinator seed mix. They would prefer that we do the tilling next spring and plant southern yellow clover as cover crop which is not hardy. They would provide the mix and do the seeding the following year.
- Task Force: Steve, Bob, Bradley. Solicit help from Front Porch Forum & Community Gardens
- **Steve** will follow up with Bee the Change to get new seed mix and Latin name of yellow clover so we can evaluate both.

Other Project Ideas:

- Anne and Bradley are discouraged with attempting to plan Natural Marshfield series during the uncertainty of the pandemic and want to pause until things improve.
- Anne mentioned that Cabot & Plnflld want to have a debrief to discuss the Tree and Shrub Sale.

Natural Area Inventory:

- Taber suggested a phone call among the task group in the next few weeks to discuss tasks and next steps.

Stranahan Town Forest:

- Close to having a rough draft of the Management Plan
- Proposing a no cut option for the next 10 years. Plan will be revised after that and this condition could change.
- Recreation section proposes new trails and Ed has advocated that MCC should view all new trails.

Waterwise Woodland: Nothing to Report

Other Business:

- Luke is interested in joining the Commission. He will submit a letter to Bobbi requesting an appointment.
- Steve completed water quality sampling and hope to present the results in the next month or so. Impaired streams seem to be centered more in Cabot.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 13 Sept, 2021

Approved on: 6 October 2021