

Marshfield Conservation Commission
135th Meeting
Meeting of 2 October 2019

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

Minutes: October minutes. Approved as presented.

Review of Forest Farmer Tours

- Steve attended the tour. About 10 participants total.
- They demonstrated how they tap trees and try to be sustainable.
- Presently putting a single tap in each tree
- Have left trees along riparian areas, but still have some erosion problems along some roads, especially Jerusalem Rd.
- Don't plan to do much logging this winter; will focus instead on tapping trees.
- Presently have 8 or 9 employees and plan to hire additional staff.
- Status of Forestry Legacy easement remains undetermined
- Steve will remain our liaison.

Bioblitz

- Steve participated and focused on inverts along the Winooski.
- **Steve** will follow up with Charlie Wanzer re. getting copy of the results. Most were entered on iNaturalist.

Natural Marshfield

- Ca. 25 folks showed up for presentation on radon
- Radon is more of a concern on the granite than the glacial till
- Remediation entails putting in vents below the foundation and venting the radon emissions away from the home.

Long Term Planning

- Sara reviewed our long term plan and what we accomplished.
- Wetland inventory: intended as part of the natural resource inventory that was not funded
- Stream reclassification: in process; awaiting action from state
- Natural areas inventory: not funded. Agency of Commerce & Community Development has shifted to focus on downtowns. **Anne** will check with other funding agencies
- Biodiversity Day: Bioblitz at Twinfield. Still need results.

- Invasives: Taber subsequently reported that observations for this project are stored in iNaturalist. The project name is "Invasive Plants of Marshfield Vermont". To access the project data and to add observations, you will need an iNaturalist account. If you have an account, you can search for the project and join to view observations and create maps for the distribution of the observations of any individual species that is on our list.
- Phenology Study: Taber started a Marshfield database on iNaturalist. Folks wanted the data tabulated to make more accessible. Requested feedback from **Taber** as to its status and how to access it. Subsequent to the meeting Taber state that he is not presently maintaining a Marshfield Phenology project. He thinks that such a project could be created, but hasn't taken the time to investigate how that would be set up. He has been maintaining his own phenology database with flowering & leaf expansion dates on his property beginning in 2014.
- Marshfield Flora: Annie had worked on this some years ago and many specimens were collected and stored at Chuck Bohns. Sue Carpenter has bird information going back to the 50s. This data will be integral to a natural resource inventory.
- Wildlife Corridors: Resulted in the pamphlet that Sara developed. Also produced map of priority areas to meet requirements of Act 171. Need to follow up with PC re. the status of new zoning regs.
- Game Cameras: Could be used for monitoring and determining use of corridors. Will consider further, but should first discuss with somebody more experienced. **Anne** will lead.
- Bat Houses: no action
- Bee Garden: no action except for general tree planting around OSC and along the Winooski.
- Roadside Mowing: Need to continue discussion with road crew re. optimum timing of mowing to reduce the spread of invasives.
- Fruit tree plantings: Steve has planted a number of trees and blueberries at OSC.
- **Suggestion** to solicit donations of trees during our tree & shrub sale for planting on town lands.

Future Endeavors:

- Pursuing conservation easements; such as a wetland property for sale. **Steve and Allen** will lead.

RAMP

Transportation Task Force

- Working on flyer listing various options available.
- Establish a Hitching post for rides

Energy Task Force:

- Workshop on incentives for upgrading woodstoves
- Will make presentation to School Bd re. potential efficiency upgrades at Twinfield.

Food & Farm Task Force

- Survey to identify local food producers

AVCC Meeting:

- No members attended this year.

Announcements:

- One morning Steve counted 150 single occupancy vehicles passing along Rte 2 in both directions within a 15 minutes span.
- Bob attended the Electric car demo day. He mentioned there is a \$7500 federal tax credit for new Electric Vehicles and also a rebate from utility companies (\$1500 from GMP and various amounts from other utilities). There is also a state incentive for EVs that is income sensitive. Note that somewhat less tax credit and utility rebates for used EVs and for Plug in Electric Hybrids.

For more information see www.driveelectricvt.com

Submitted on: 5 October 2019

Approve on: 4 Dec 2019

Submitted by: Bob Popp