

# Marshfield Conservation Commission

## 93rd Meeting

October 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Tony Mayhew, Anne Miller, Ed Jalbert, Sara Norton, Annie Reed (Chair), and Bob Popp

Minutes: Sept minutes approved unanimously as presented

### Treasurers Report:

- \$6,764 in Conservation Fund
- \$ 245 in Operating Budget

### Natural History Booklets:

- Annie requested that **folks check with sale venues and collect any funds**

### Funding Ideas: Retreat

- Sara will facilitate the retreat
- Focus will be on activities that we want to be involved with regardless of funding needs.
- Decided on **Wed, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. **We will meet at 5** then partake of the community supper at 6, then reconvene afterwards.

### Stranahan Update:

- The logger selected for the job bailed out apparently due to a drop in price for pulp. The job has been rebid. Bids will be open on October 20<sup>th</sup>
- No market for softwood pulp, but can chip for biomass.
- Has been recent beaver activity where dam was flooding the road. The beaver is gone (removed?); beaver dam has been breached.
- No prohibition against beaver trapping in the easement; up to SB to decide
- Annie and Anne went to SB meeting last night to offer our assistance. Suggested using a beaver baffle such as the one in place at Adamant. Annie provided them a website on "beaver baffles and deceivers".
- Motion: Recommend that beaver be allowed to persist on the Stranahan Property and that SSC pursue other options instead of removal. The MCC offers its expertise as needed. Accepted unanimously. **Bob** will distribute to the SSC

### Natural Marshfield Series:

- State toxicologist and geologist were going to present a program on arsenic in October, but rescheduled for Dec. So no program in October.
- November 19<sup>th</sup> will be Sue Morse jointly supported by Cutler Library & Jaquith Library & Plnflid Conservation Commission. Consider a larger venue such as opera house or Twinfield.

- **Motion:** to allocate \$100 from CC Operating Fund to go towards Sue Morse presentation. Approved unanimously.
- Ca. 25 folks turned out for mushroom talk and 29 for the walk.
- Anne suggested a phenology discussion among town residents including hunters, anglers, in addition to naturalists.
- Also a suggestion for a program on beavers

Climate Change Brainstorm:

- About 17 folks from Marshfield & Plainfield participated. Collected a number of ideas but many were already tried by Energy Committee
- Collated the ideas into 8 categories, five of which will be followed up on by various participants.
- Taber thought more actions should be taken to prepare for rather than prevent climate change. He thought that Plainfld CC is doing something along the line of climate change adaptation.
- There was mention of the PC's intent to reduce the size of the Forestry & Conservation District in the town zoning regs.
- Sara suggested discussing the issue with PC members. Annie suggested seeing whether RPC has "build out" maps. **Did anyone agree to follow up on these actions?**

Other Business:

- Sara discussed St Mikes' symposium on the pope's encyclical re. Climate Change. There was a full house but some talks were disappointing
- Field trip to Stranahan 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec. possibly 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Watershed Grants application guide and application forms are available on the web at: [http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/htm/lp\\_watershedgrants.htm](http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/htm/lp_watershedgrants.htm) Nov 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for proposals.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 11 October 2015

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Accepted on: \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the October 7, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting.

Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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