

Marshfield Conservation Commission

108th Meeting

1 Feb 2017

Members Attending: Taber Allison, Allen Banbury, Anne Miller, Sara Norton, Bob Popp, Steve Fiske, and Annie Reed (Chair)

Nonmembers Attending: Rachel Rudi

Note: Following the meeting we discovered that Rachel was appointed to the Commission by the Select BD.

Minutes: January minutes approved with corrections on Watershed Planning topic

Treasurers Report:

- Allen presented an abbreviated report; **he will check** on the status of our Operating Fund
- We spent \$100 since last month: 50 for Natural Marshfield speaker and \$50 for AVCC membership

Plant Sale:

- Following our planning meeting; all plants have been ordered
- Substituted Ninebark for Forsythia; neither is native to VT, but neither is invasive
- Ordered 2 varieties of apple and also white birch which is new for the year
- Pick up will be Saturday, April 29th

Follow up on Jens' Hllke (Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Planning Biologist) Presentation:

- We were notified of the rollout of a new version of Biomap. This is a mapping tool that depicts what is already known about Marshfield from various sources, but is not meant to replace a comprehensive, on the ground natural resource inventory
- Need to determine what assistance do we want from Jens ; possibly a presentation to the town on the value of our resources?
- Want to stay connected with the Planning Commission as they move forward on zoning regs; encourage them to reconvene the forums
- **Sara** will contact Jon Groveman to see whether we can get on agenda. They meet on the 1st Thurs @ 6:30
- Sara is interested in starting to draft a brochure on connectivity for possible distribution at a Town Mtg or other town events. Members gave their approval of the project.

Natural Marshfield UpDate

- Feb: Betzy Bancroft will discuss herbal uses of invasives in Feb
- March: Lincoln Centers will discuss biomimicry
- April: Bob Popp will discuss Vermont's rare flora

Celebrity Naturalist Series:

- Anne determined that the Bear expert from N.H. is too expensive . She also looked into having Tom Wessels and he is also expensive. Anne may pursue a grant to fund a speaker.

Stranahan Update:

- The Stewardship Com drafted a letter to SB re. additional mt bike trails. It recommends additional trails not be approved at this time. Suggest that current trail should be finished and monitored before approving additional trail. Also suggest having a public hearing prior to approving additional trails

Natural Resource Inventory:

- Annie suggests beginning to examine infra red photos to find potential resource areas to visit.
- Bob suggests starting with known resources before moving to aerial photos
- NR Task force will meet to determine what already is known & report back to the group

Water Quality Monitoring:

- The 2016 report is done and it will be posted on Friends of Winooski website
- Friends of Winooski submitted proposal for monitoring this year. There is a change of focus to monitoring bacteria counts in swimming areas & focusing on tributaries for nutrients & turbidity. They will also revisit sites visited in 2010 in order to determine trend. The results would indicate amount of Phosphorus we are putting into L Champlain and how tributaries rank in phosphorous export.

Old Schoolhouse:

- Steve interested in tree planting at OSH. Some members thought should have design 1st but Steve interested in going ahead.
- Annie questioned whether FOW would do the plantings, but Steve thought the site probably would not meet their criteria.
- **Steve** will provide a sketch plan of his concept for next month.
- **Annie** will provide priority projects list from our planning exercise. Note: this was sent out following the meeting.

Next Meeting:

- Town Meeting: Discussion of Town Meeting display. **Need to find our stand.**

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 8 Feb 2017

Accepted on: 1 March 2017