

Marshfield Conservation Commission
139th Meeting
Meeting of 4 March 2020

Members Present: Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Anne Miller, Bob Popp, and Annie Reed

Nonmembers Present: Shawn White, Friends of Winooski (FoW), and Bradley Matrick

Friends of the Winooski: Shawn White

- FoW has been working with High Meadows Fund on Forest Integrity Project.
- High Meadows wants to continue to work with FoW on floodwater resilience. FoW wants to partner with the 3 commissions (Marshfield, Plainfld & Cabot) to figure out the specific projects. They also want to continue with Forest Integrity Project. The Forest owners workshop last year was part of the FIP
- FoW needs to submit a proposal by March 12th. They would like to form a group of forest stewards to demonstrate how to manage forests for water quality with ultimate goal to form a group of landowners managing forests for water quality. Would also include some training possibly from VT Coverts, Winooski NRCD, VT Woodlands Assoc.
- Grant would be ca \$40,000 over 2 years.
- FoW would like a letter of support for the proposal and agreement from us to meet with other commissions to work on project.
- The Forest Integrity Project entailed contacting owners of key forested parcels
- Steve mentioned the Conservation Lands working group and DEC Lakewise program as possible templates
- Shawn is asking for us to brainstorm specific ideas for the project
- Shawn will send a draft letter for us to send. It would be needed by **March 11th**
- Riparian buffer plantings: FoW will be planting at two sites on May 12th at Martin Covered Bridge downstream of park and another site upstream of MCB. Have 720 trees ordered and lots of help from Sun Common.

Minutes: February Minutes approved unanimously as presented.

Ash Inventory: Annie

- Annie updated us on the progress of the inventory.
- Beaver Meadow, Brook Rd, McCrillis Rd, Portion of Hollister Hill is done
- Bob and Ron will do Holt and Maple Hill
- Annie asked that folks **keep track of hours** and provide them to her
- **Bob** will touch base with NRCD re the grant.

Town Meeting Debriefing:

- Decided we needed new photos for our displays

Plant Sale: Anne

- Anne said Drinkwaters is going out of business. She had to rush to find substitutes from other nurseries, but some plants will be smaller than what we had from Drinkwaters.

- Plainfield clerk will be handling the money.
- Anne has placed displays with order forms around the area
- **Orders due on Friday, April 3rd with pickup on Sat April 25th.**

Natural Marshfield Anne

- Nicko Rubin will discuss growing and maintaining fruit trees and possibly berries on **March 17th at 7** at Jaquith library
- Series on Farming & Gardening with an eye on climate change @ Jaquith library
- March: 11th soil quality
- April 8th : climate change and food security

Conservation Lands Working Group update Steve

- Subcommittee met once. They want to identify parcels with high natural resource value and explore whether conservation easements could work
- FoW with HighMeadows Funds have already identified some high priority parcels but could use other criteria such as forested blocks, etc. to refine the list
- Subcommittee would like to tap into expertise re. easements by inviting some professional help.

Membership

- Sara has requested reappointed to the Conservation Committee
- We have no indication of Rachel's interest
- **Annie** will follow up with Rachel

Announcements:

Steve:

- Basin 8 Clean water provider Meeting March 25 at 28 N Main ST. Waterbury
- State will create a watershed council to oversee block grants for each basin. Basin 8 is the Winooski
- Watershed council will consist of members from conservation district, watershed protection organization, land conservation organization, etc.
- Council will hire a "general contractor" to oversee the grants for each basin

Bob:

- Bob spoke with Gary Gulka about Cabot CC request for a line item in budget to fund a natural community inventory. Gary said he'd get back to Bob on this, but no news yet.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 5 March, 2020

Approved on: 1 April 2020