

Marshfield Conservation Commission
130th Meeting
3 April 2019

Members Present: Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Sara Norton, Bob Popp, Annie Reed

Minutes: March minutes approved as presented

Treasurers Report

- Conservation Fund \$10,895
- Operating budget \$300

Plant Sale

- Packaging of material on **Friday, Apr 26th @ 3:30 : Anne, Allen, Ed. Rachel & Steve**
- Distribution: **Sat April 27 @ 9: Annie, Taber, Allen, Anne, Ed**
- Sales are down for most things except cedars

Zoning Changes:

Pros:

- More consistent zoning throughout town, boundary of Forest & Conservation district would be 750 ft from roads
- Removed the block of Rural Residential extending out from town centers well beyond the current 600ft.
- Slight net gain in Forestry/Conservation district acreage
- Provides more protection for agricultural land
- Provides more flexibility for house sites.

Concerns:

- Allows more fragmentation with a corresponding decrease in value for wildlife
- Cuts across some habitat corridors which would allow some blocks of habitat to become fragmented
- Allowing more fragmentation locally may not seem significant, but fragmentation is increasing statewide
- Decreases high priority forest block by 530 ac. or 3.4 % of town total. See reference to A171 in Town Plan
- Impermeable surfaces increase stormwater runoff
- Increased probability of incursions by pets farther into habitat blocks
- Increased likelihood of introduction of Non native Invasive species
- Little demand for add'l 150 ft; costly to build & maintain.

Steve suggests we put our concerns in writing to the PC; **Steve & Sara** will draft

Natural Marshfield Series:

- No other presentations scheduled

Watershed Grant Update

- We didn't get the watershed grant
- Annie has informed the selectboard

Waterwise Woodland: At Twinfield on 6 April

- Well attended, ca 70 participants
- 25 attended mapping exercise
- Ten on tree ID trip
- Dozen at pruning workshop

Other Business:

- Sara suggested having a Retreat to refocus our priorities. No decision.
- Friends of Winooski providing us with 15 trees: red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). Will be available 4/26. Plan to plant by the river. **Steve** will send out a call for volunteers.

Stranahan Recreation Report. Bob attended the meeting of the Stranahan Committee. At that time the report was not available for review. Subsequently it has been put on the town website. Now available at the following link:

https://www.town.marshfield.vt.us/index.asp?SEC=9BBAD366-40F0-43CE-9823-BE64096895C5&Type=B_BASIC

- Stranahan Com will keep sending Annie minutes & agenda
- Presentation to Cabot Cons. Com re. Molly 's Falls SP. At 5:00 on the 4th. Annie, and Steve, and Ed will attend.
- Model Communities Dinner at **Twinfield on 30th at 4:30**

Motion to appropriate \$50 for AVCC membership. Approve unanimously

- Followup on Martin Covered Bridge property. Decided we need a field visit to determine the status of tree planting once snow melts.
- Need to reprint the book. **Sara** will bring info on printing cost to next meeting
- Annie will email Bobbi re. her and Ed's reappointment
- Ed will be pruning apple trees on STF probably this weekend. Welcomes help.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 8 April 2019

Approved on: 1 May 2019