

Marshfield Conservation Commission

69th Meeting

4 April, 2012

Members Attending: Tony Mayhew, Annie Reed, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Sarah Norton, Allen Banbury, and Bob Popp.

Non Members Attending: Ann Miller, Marshfield Energy Committee

Review of Minutes: February 29th (March) minutes accepted with minor changes. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report: No Change from previous month. Balance of \$4,834

Presentation by Ann Miller representing Marshfield Energy Committee

- She is organizing a roundtable discussion on the effects of climate change
- The objective is to document the changes that are happening in our area climatically and its repercussions on the ecology, economy, and recreation in our area.
- The MCC is interested in participating &/or co-sponsoring the event with the Energy Committee
- **Annie** offered to be the liaison between the two groups; The Energy Committee meets the 1st Monday of the month.

Town Natural History Project:

- All of the narratives have been written edited and revised; illustrations are in progress.
- Plan to have it all done by April and to press by end of April
- Sarah had questions about how to distribute the pamphlet.
- It could be available at both libraries, both Town Clerks, Co-op, etc
- Actual cost would be ca. \$2.79 but the Commission was split as to how much to charge for it. Conflict was over placing a value on it, but not pricing it out of range.
- Decision has not been made yet as to how many copies to print. About 500 copies is the proposed number
- **Brett or Tony** will discuss with SB the use of funds to print it and also for permission to sell it
- Sarah suggested having a distribution party at the library.
- Free copies would be presented to each library, school library, biology class, neighboring towns, authors, illustrators, funders. Others would be sold for a nominal charge (as yet undetermined).

Tree Sale

- Allen is uncertain of the status of the sale, but has queried Sarah Albert and will email us when he hears back.

- We'll need help for Pick Up on Sat, the 28th (9 to 11) in Plainfield and Bundling up orders on the 27th at 5 PM at Ross Snead's barn.

Marshfield Town Plan Discussion

- Public hearing is still not scheduled, but apparently there won't be an actual vote on the plan
- The Planning Commission is discussing shrinking the size of the Forest & Conservation District by increasing the present 600 ft. allowed distance from roads to 800 ft

Winooski Watershed Plan Discussion

- Presentation is Tuesday, **May 8th at OSC 7 till 8:30**
- Steve is working on publicizing the event in Field Notes and is producing flyers to hang at various venues.

Green Up Day

- Tony & Pat Mayhew are town coordinators for Green Up Day which is **Saturday, May 5th**
- Tony will be contacting folks to be block coordinators

Herbicide Certification: Bob discussed his conversation with Pam from VLCT re applying herbicides on town or private land in town. VCLT is the town's liability insurance carrier.

- She said that "Pollution coverage applies only to municipal golf courses, but that other town property is not specifically excluded". She stated further that VCLT would defend the town against pollution related lawsuit, but could deny coverage later. She suggested that we could get a written waiver from a private owner to apply herbicides, but could still be liable to a claim from an abutter or passer by
- **Ed** will get an insurance estimate to be certified as a private applicator
- **Bob** will discuss with SB to see if they have any thoughts on how to proceed
- Steve suggested that we could identify invasives and educate landowners on their control and use of herbicides. Owners may apply registered herbicides on their own property.

Stranahan Town Forest

- Ed reported that VLT confirmed that the Town is not mandated to do logging. It is most certainly allowed as per the management plan but not required.
- Members agreed that forestry should be part of the activity on the STF as part of a working landscape as long as it is done sustainably and not for short term gain.
- Annie has been monitoring the vernal pools, and has located at least 2 additional vernal pools that were not previously known when plan was done.
- Ed was ok with instituting the same buffer standards around these new pools.

Submitted by _____
Bob Popp

Submitted On: 28 April 2012
Approved On: _____