

Marshfield Conservation Commission
137th Meeting
Meeting of 8 January 2020

Members Present: Taber Allison, Allen Banbury, Steve Fiske, Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Sara Norton, Bob Popp, Annie Reed, and Rachel Rudi.

Note meeting was rescheduled due to New Years Holiday on the 1st.

Minutes: Minutes of December meeting unanimously approved as presented

Treasurers Report

Balance in 10,739 in Conservation Fund

Town Ash Inventory:

- We will follow the resilient road inventory protocol;
- Annie suggested invite JoAnn from FRP to next meeting to show us how to download and use the App;
- **Bob** will tweak letter of support and distribute; Annie will sign and send out by 17th
- By signing onto the letter we are committed to a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer time. Most members expressed interest in participating;
- Annie suggested soliciting community volunteers and the town tree warden,
- **Bob** will send out templates from other towns.

Natural Marshfield: Will focus on Farming & Gardening in the Time of Climate Change

- Jan 29th Joseph Gorres, UVM will speak on How Temperature, Erratic and Extreme Weather will affect soil organisms and plant growth.
- Feb 8th Karen Ganey, permaculturalist will speak on increasing biodiversity in farms & gardens and mitigating climate related impacts.
- Feb 29th Sylvia Davatz and Anne Miller will speak on increasing the adaptability of our plant varieties
- March 11 Cat Buxton, Food System Consultant will speak on building & maintaining healthy soils.
- Apr 8th Henry Harris & Theresa Snow of Salvation Farm will discuss climate change and food security

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Meeting to discuss inventory on Tuesday, Jan 14th 5 PM at Annie's
- **Bob** will distribute NRCD list so as to avoid overlap with their offering

Christmas Bird Count Bob & Tabor participated and gave an update.

- Day was rain in the Am followed by fog in the PM
- Count total of **4,079 birds of 39 species**
- Numbers of individuals and species were both down but not a low despite weather
- Two new species for the count: Peregrine falcon and Great Horned Owl

Stranahan Update:

- Discussion of Thompson Rd repair and drainage. Town is willing to do minor repairs, but apparently not a major retrofit;
- Next meeting Tuesday; the 21st
- Apparently still some conflict between biking & hiking trail use
- **Bob and Ed** will attend next meeting
- Bob will resend the letter re. mountain bike use on the forest.

Long Range Planning

- Subcommittee will meet to discuss potential acquisitions
- Steve will discuss with Barbara Bendix about property for sale on Hollister Hill ca. 1 mile from town line, former property of Bob Chapell

Friends of Winooski

- Select Bd approved of plantings at Martin Bridge
- Plantings will not include box elder

Bioblitz Results

- Results are not on iNaturalist
- Found ca 100 critters
- **Steve** has forwarded the results

New Business

- Steve contacted Kate Surdoff re. Forest Legacy easement for Forest Farmers maple operation. Still under consideration
- Annual Report is likely due soon; **Bob** will draft and send out for comments

Reappointment:

- Annie and Ed thought they were due for reappointment
- Subsequent to the meeting Bob checked notes and believes Taber and Rachel are due.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 12 January 2020

Approved on: 5 February 2020