

Marshfield Conservation Commission
142nd Meeting
1 July, 2020 via Zoom

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

Non-Members: Greg Western

Minutes: May Minutes: Approved unanimously as amended

Treasurer's Report: None provided

- Plainfield has sent the funds from the Tree & Shrub sale.
- Still have not received an invoice from AVCC

Cross Vt Trail: Greg Western, Director

- Railbed btwn Plainfld Pk & Rd and Marshfield Depot are not public. Have some town owned lands by each town in fee, some CVT easements, but lots of it is still private.
- It is not posted, so remains an informal trail. From Marshfield Village, Bemis Rd and east is a formal trail. Many landowners have given verbal permission, but would ideally have a formal easement.
- Confusing ownership; hard to determine ownership in places.
- Have a construction contract (soon to be signed) for Winooski River bridge, but CVT is still doing fund raising for bridge.
- New focus is to complete the trail in Marshfield. Ideally it would be on the railbed, but doesn't necessarily need to be .
- Greg would like help identifying and contacting landowners, ideally in person rather than by mail. He already has a property map with owners identified.
- CVT still need an easement from Town of Marshfield which would protect the trail in case it was ever sold. They have easements from E.Montpelier & Plainfield.
- **Bradley** will discuss with Select Bd
- **Greg** will provide names of people with ownership of the railbed. Some folks own one side, some own entire bed which leads to confusion over who owns the middle.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting Greg offered the following in an email to members.

- He is willing to attend a September meeting to provide a parcel map and list of owners along the railbed.
- Greg will provide guidance on how best to approach the landowners
- He will also provide a discussion of easements for property owners and provided the following summary of the CVT:
 - "The purpose of the Cross Vermont Trail Association, Inc. is to assist municipalities, recreation groups, and landowners in the creation and management of a four-season, multi-use trail across the state of Vermont for

public recreation, alternative transportation, and awareness of our natural and cultural heritage."

Roadside ash inventory

- Ed has map of roads completed, but Annie believes the town is mostly, if not entirely, done.
- Annie and Ed have installed 2 purple Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) traps: one on Pigeon Pond Rd and one on Hollister Hill Rd.

EAB Management plan

- Bob distributed a draft plan from Gianna
- Annie noted the following inconsistencies:
 - Ash mortality is not 99%
 - Flight dates for adults are too early. 1 June
 - Others involved in census in addition to those mentioned
- Need to summarize the plan for the Select Bd and also have them provide some direction as to the town's approach to dead ash along the roads. **Bob, Annie & Bradley** will modify the plan and present it to the SB

Natural Marshfield

- **Anne and Bradley** will discuss the results of brainstorming session and provide a summary.

Meeting with CVNRCD and Gianna

- **Bob** will follow up with Gianna about next step

Stranahan TF Update

- No one has attended the last Stranahan Stwdship Com meeting. Presumably all activities are still cancelled.
- **Anne Miller** will contact Ellen Cooke re potential for socially distanced activities on the forest.
- **Note:** following the meeting, Bob received some guidance from the Green Mt Club re. leading field trips during the Corona virus. He sent that to the members.

Update on PDF of the Wildlife Pamphlet:

- Tracey has not had time to format into a pdf.
- She will reformat and edit draft before sending out to entire committee for review.

Announcements

- Many members received a survey from VHCB re. farming practices

- The Committee submitted a letter in support of Waterwise Woodland (WWW).
- Friends of Winooski has a grant pending with WWW to encourage Cabot, Plainfield, & Marshfield Commissions to support watershed resiliency in their towns.
- **Steve** will distribute grant application to members.

Other Business:

- Anne would like to have a socially distanced in person meeting if possible.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 11 July, 2020

Approved on: 5 August 2020