

# Marshfield Conservation Commission

## 90th Meeting

July 1st, 2015

Members Attending: Anne Miller, Bob Popp, Sarah Norton, Steve Fiske, Annie Reed, and Allen Banbury

Minutes: June minutes approved unanimously with minor corrections

Treasurers Report: Tony sent word that there are no changes in finances

### Bee Project:

- Annie viewed the project at Washington Electric and thought the soil texture appeared unusual and seemed highly compacted
- Steve feels strongly about the Bee Garden but doesn't want to proceed with the bio solids soil mix if anyone has concerns. He feels it is safe for this use.
- Anne concerned that bio solids are derived from sewerage sludge which contains trace amounts of lots of unknown chemicals that may interact and degrade into unknown products. Doesn't want to bring material of unknown, questionable composition into the community.
- Anne can find a source of topsoil for \$400 a trailer load.
- **Allen** will put a query on the AVCC list serve to determine whether others have wrestled with this issue.
- Annie not convinced that a bee garden is the best use of our funds.
- Unanimous decision to not accept the RMI bio solid soils, and consider constructing a bee garden ourselves. Agreed to add Bee Garden to our list of potential projects.

### P:otential Projects for use of Funds:

- Suggestion to have a retreat to consider various projects. Another thought would be to research topics assigned to various members ahead of time
- Another consideration is that funding is not the limiting factor, rather it is a lack of time. Likely it will take someone to champion a project to make it happen.
- Factors to consider
- Cost, timeline, time needed for completion, permitting/approval, overarching goal, resources needed, outside expertise required, long term maintenance/monitoring, need for volunteers, community involvement, PR, leadership, Grant availability/free service, location
- Members will research the following topics:
  - Annie: Beaver Baffles
  - Allen: Bat Houses
  - Sarah: wildlife corridor map, tracking workshop
  - Anne: wildlife cameras, roadside mowing
  - Bob: Natural areas inventory

- Steve: Bee garden, fruit trees

Water Quality Sampling:

- Began sampling last week and will continue every other week.

Martin Covered Bridge

- VYCC crew worked at MCB today to remove bindweed and grass from around the plantings. Also cut knotweed and covered with cardboard.

Natural Marshfield Series

- Last presentation on microscopes was sparsely attended.

Other Business:

- Unable to locate the wildlife corridor map done collectively for both towns ca. 20+ yrs ago. Suggestion to check with Sarah Alpert &/or George Springston of Plainfld CC
- Plainfield reportedly had a small turnout for their public meeting to kick off the inventory project

Submitted By: Bob Popp

Submitted On: 26 August 2015

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved On: 2 Sept 2015

The foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the July 1, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting.

Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

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