

Plainfield Conservation Commission - 20 January 2016

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Buchanan, Charlie Cogbill, Julie Hackbarth, Kate Harper, Jan Waterman

Absent: Mary Trerice

Guest: Jessica Rubin (8:00)

Convened 7:20

Minutes of December meeting were approved.

Reserve Fund: Discussed wording of an article to be warned for town meeting re: how to designate use of funds raised by Conservation Commission, i.e., plant sales. **"Shall a reserve fund be established for projects determined by the Plainfield Conservation Commission, using funds raised by them for that purpose? If the Conservation Commission ceases to exist, these funds will be transferred to the town's Conservation Fund."**

Tree and Shrub Sale: Sarah reported on a 1/14 planning meeting with the Marshfield conservation commission. A nice variety of edible and landscaping plants were selected. Brochures will be ready for town meeting; orders due back by April 8; assembly at Comstock House barn April 29; pick-up April 30.

Recreation Trails Grant for town forest: Sarah reported on status of grant application – it's close to being ready. The plan is to create 4 parking spaces at the Maxfield Rd. entrance, and 6 at the Gonyeau Rd. entrance, and to create kiosks containing maps and informational brochures, all of which will make the forest more inviting, accessible and welcoming to the public, especially elders, families with children, and those with disabilities.

LCBP Grant: The Selectboard has asked for a representative from the commission to serve on the community resilience team to be created when the grant is awarded. We will discuss this again at a later date.

Mark your calendars: 1/28 – Natural Marshfield is hosting an evening of information sharing about wildlife sightings, tracking, etc. All are invited.

Also, **3/9** – Sue Morse will return to the Haybarn at Goddard, to present information about climate change.

A new take on invasive plants: Jessica described a book she read recently, *Invasive Plant Medicine: The Ecological Benefits and Healing Abilities of Invasives*, by Timothy Lee Scott. She invited us to consider exploring this approach further. We discussed ways of presenting this information to the public: possibly creating pamphlets, educational presentations, a play and so on. We'll discuss this again in the future.

Green Up: Becky reported that Delia is again willing to co-organize this event with her. Thanks, Delia!

Town Forest: Sarah, Jessica and Jan worked on erosion control before the first snow. More needs to be done, including hauling more straw out to the site before the ground thaws.

Adjourned 8:50

Respectfully submitted by Jan Waterman, Secretary

Next meeting: 17 February, 2016