



Marginal Way Committee Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2023

4:00 PM via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 4:04PM

A) Roll Call

Members Present: Joan Griswold, *Chair*; Elaine Cooper, *Vice Chair*; Gail Brothers, *Treasurer*; Louesa Gillespie, *Member*; Susan Drisko, *Member*; Jo Resta, *Alternate*; Jane Greene, *Alternate*

Due to technical issues and travelling respectively - Paul Breen, *Secretary* and Joyce Fletcher, *Member* were excused. Jane Greene took the meeting minutes.

NOTE: Because of an upcoming Planning Board workshop at 5:00 PM, today's MWC meeting will be short. Before the official report, Joan proposed another one-hour meeting on either 2/13 or 2/20 at 4:00. After a short discussion, Monday 2/13 was decided upon. The MWC Strategic Plan will be discussed at that meeting.

B) Approval of Meeting Minutes: Dec. 5, 2022, Jan 9, 2023

Motion was made to approve the December and January Meeting Minutes.

Motion was seconded. Motion passed 5-0

C) Treasurer's Report: G. Brother

Out of our \$24,000 budget, we spent \$8,940.27, leaving a balance of \$15,059.73.

D) Chair Report: J. Griswold

- On Dec 9th, Joan and Elaine had a meeting with Town Manager, Matt Buttrick and Town Treasurer, Mandy Cummings. Plans for the Centennial were discussed. It will be the MWC's responsibility to coordinate speakers, groups, presentations. The Committee will present to the Select Board at a later date.
- FEMA funds will be for used for equipment for the Town, including a John Deere tractor – 59" wide – specifically for the MW.

- MW Vulnerability Study: The Town Manager will initiate the Study. Funding may be covered by the MWPF.
- Survey of the path needs to be done this year to determine accurate boundary markers between the Town and private properties.
- December 19th: Site Walk with Town Manager, Town Treasurer, Joan, Elaine, Peter Slovinsky (*Maine Geological Survey*) Bill Walsh (*Walsh Engineering*), and Abbie Sherwin (*Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission*). The group analyzed the repairs that need to be done. Excellent meeting!
- December 14th: Centennial Meeting. Everyone is clear about their specific tasks. We talked with MWPF about holding a reception – regarding plaques, etc.

Confirmed speakers at this point:

Hannah Baranes, *Gulf of Maine Research Institute*, Emily Peterman, *Associate Professor of Earth and Oceanic Science at Bowdoin College*. (One of Emily's students will be doing a geology project on the MW this summer. It's possible that this student could present the project report at the Centennial)

Next meeting will be April 5th. There will be a presentation to the Select Board in the late spring.

- January 19th: Meeting of Budget Review Committee & Select Board. Joan and Elaine presented the MWC's Budget request. The SB/BRC had many good questions! MWC's request went for half an hour. A workshop for Select Board Members on work being done on the MW, as well as a site walk was suggested.
- Bare root plants were ordered from *New Hampshire State Forest Nursery* – at a very good price. These will be planted in April. Additionally, Joan purchased wild grass seed from *Ernst Seed*. She spread the seeds at four sites before the snow. It's an experiment. We'll see!
- Joan attended the *Wilding Our Places: Connecting*

People and Pollinators on January 28th in Kennebunk. This was presented by The Planeteeers of Southern Maine, School Around Us, and the Kennebunk Conservation Commission. Shawn Jalbert was one of the presenters. Joan approached him about giving a new virtual class this spring about perennials and pollinators. We discussed the honorarium fee.

Members discussed this speaker possibility. April would be a good time - a good time to think about gardens! It would be an evening or a weekend. We would invite our subscribers and publicize it. After several dates mentioned, members settled on Thursday, April 27th.

- The Seaside Garden got a major cleanout. A large amount of Goldenrod and Bluestem Grasses are looking sickly. Joan suggested reaching out to Wild Seed Project. They are proponents of native plants. Founder, Heather McCargo has wanted to do a project on the MW. Joan will contact either her or Ginger Laurits.

Louesa suggested documenting what we've put into the Seaside Garden. What's worked, and what hasn't? Members agreed. Susan suggested using large perennials that would spread. Soil has been added in that area, and it hasn't worked well.

- Planting this spring will be at O'Leary 5, B 4 & 5, Israel head and Cohen's.
- Control work will start on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Work will occur on Bird sign access path, the stone wall and Seaside Garden. Joan has gotten a great response for help. 21 people have volunteered. Including partners/spouses, we might have 27 winter workers!

Susan suggested using *Sign-Up Genius* and offered to help with this.

- Pod Day 2023: August 12th. We'll start early in the day. Could be the same date as the MWPF fundraising event.
- Fun Fact: USA Today listed MW as one of the TOP Ten Snowshoeing Sites!
- MW Member Site Walk – late April, early May

E) Old Business

1. Trail Monitor Program: E. Cooper

Sue and Elaine will meet about MW Trail Monitors and Weed Warrior Programs. They will create and send out a survey to target volunteer interests and provide training. Elaine added that people are interested in grant writing for the MW.

2. Social Media: J. Resta

Jo shared wonderful news on the refreshed MWC Facebook page!

Page reach **increased** by 13,000 %

Engagement **up** by 42%.

Followers **up** 67%.

Post reach **up** 64%

Impressions: **up** 39%

FB is a *great* way to reach out to Volunteers. The content, the media can vary. It's an effective way to reach a wider audience. Jo is currently working on creating an MW Instagram presence.

NEXT MEETING

E) Old Business: Winter Blast: J. Greene

F) New Business: Review Strategic Plan & Projects

G) Public Comments: None

H) Adjournment: 4:59 PM

Next meeting will be a workshop: February 13th @ 4:00 on Zoom