



MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO BOX 310 MILTON, NH 03851

Meeting @ 6:00 PM, Wednesday, 3/7/2024

Milton Town Hall, 55 Industrial Way

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Virginia Long (Chair), Steve Panish, Robert Weiss, Wayne Sylvester, Jeff LeClair

Alternates: Lee Pilkovsky

Virginia Long, Chair, opened the public session at 6:00 PM.

1. Welcome guests: No Guest
2. Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serves as full members as needed: Lee filled in until Jeff arrived (around 6:10 pm)
3. Event announcements:
 - MCC Winter Walk at Casey Road Conservation Land Sat, Feb 24, 10AM-12PM. Led by Forester Jonathan Nute.
 - MMRG events: See their calendar www.mmrgnh.org
 - Watch for rescheduling of Forest Immersion Walk with Robin Schumaker in spring.
 - NH Coverts Project Training
 - MMRG Mixer – most are attending
4. Display/circulate MCC mail and CC materials for lending.
5. Review/Approve 1/3/2024 meeting minutes and Special Meeting on 1/10/2024:

1/3/2024 – S Panish made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. W Sylvester seconded. The rest were in favor.

1/10/2024 – B Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. S Panish seconded. The rest were in favor.

6. Financial Report:

Steve received expenditure report late; no expenses year-to-date and don't yet know budget. FY2023: Budget - \$6,125; Expended - \$4,018; Remaining - \$2,107. \$149 plexiglass expense needs approval.

S Panish motion to reimburse V Long \$149 for big sheet plexiglass. W Sylvester seconded.

The rest were in favor.

7. Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications OR Violations, if any (Virginia, Wayne)
None

8. Wetlands protections:

- Report on Planning Board work on Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance and Priority Wetlands designation: Discussion at recent Deliberative Session and comments on Facebook include it's a violation of RSA and accusation of trespassing – both not valid.

FB question concerns how MCC board gets appointed. Web page does show different term lengths; members do get appointed on regular basis.

W Sylvester – comments are much ado about nothing. Never was questioned before about term lengths.

V Long – Got pushback and feedback to presentation at the Deliberative Session.

Also confusion from residents who live on Heron Circle. Tried to correct all misconceptions expressed at meeting and clarify confusions. Feel there is little support; not sure if it will pass.

9. Planning for upcoming MCC events (Winter Walk on February 24): Announcement flyers to hang in various locations.

10. Workshop reports:

- Bob Weiss on Coldwater Stream Habitat Community Forum:
Brainstorming session discussion on what people are doing to their wetlands. New multi-year project focus on stream water and water temps for fish habitat. Very easy and inexpensive tests to perform and monitor local water temps with data collection package. B Weiss will get more information and intends to participate in monitoring. Recommends Salmon Falls or Branch River – usually larger water bodies.
- Wayne on NHACC annual meeting:
Attended climate action workshop -- How to help limit and reduce emissions and temps over next 25 years. Focus on health impacts of climate change in northeast. Example: What does it mean having 9 additional days of over 90-degree weather? What does 1.5-degree increase do regarding ticks, mosquitoes, etc? How will this increase in hot and humid weather impact asthma or other related diseases?

11. Town-owned Easements and Conservation lands:

FEE PROPERTIES, REVIEW plans to 'monitor' each of these in 2023: Will remind new DPW of Earth Day and look for their participation.

- CASEY RD CONSERVATION LAND: MMRG monitors.
- JONES BROOK PARK/PAYNE (MMRG WILL MONITOR IN FUTURE):
- SPAULDING TURNPIKE: UPDATE IN ATV USE (LEE): V Long walked in January; saw no ATV activity, may walk again in spring.
- DAMES BROOK (BOB):
- OLD SKI AREA: (VIRGINIA)
- BALL PROPERTY: (SHARON) Some reports of ATV use; V Long has not seen any activity
 1. Update on plan to clean up old dump sites
 2. Follow-up on encroachments (Virginia) V Long sent email to Gustitas –

no reply yet with 3/31 deadline for removal of encroachments. Will send him approved 1/10/24 joint meeting minutes.

3. Clarification on snowmobile use (from Jen). Jen asked for policy. B Woodruff says 'no motorized vehicles' does not mean no snowmobiles. Disagree with BW as technically does mean no snowmobiles. W Sylvester has heard both ways – damage from snowmobile is much different and less impact than ATV. Could have impact on wildlife. L Pilkovsky questioned if trails are designed for snowmobile usage? B Weiss doesn't think trails are suitable. V Long agreed – can be loud and noisy to neighbors and wildlife. Recommend keep existing signs indicating no motor vehicles, thus no snowmobiles.
4. Preventing ATV/dirt bike use

EASEMENTS:

- FRIZZELL – ATV use of snowmobile trail
- LANCEY WARD “Slight encroachment” at easternmost corner where grass yard intrudes into easement.
- LAVALLIERE no letter written yet
- SILVER SPRINGS
- WALLACE WAY
- NUTE HAYBARN AND PLANTATION EASEMENTS - NO ISSUES; SHARON WILL MONITOR –
- LIBERTY CIRCLE – Jonathan Nute will monitor. MMRG revised its contract and removed Liberty Circle, as requested, and reduced the fee.
- CURRENT – (STEVE)

- Letters to encroaching landowners

12. Trail Volunteers Group Update:

J LeClair reported next year's biggest project will be relocating Beaver Pond Trail -- impacted by heavy rains received. Spring time will be busy with maintenance, control of invasives, etc.

Jones Brook – lots of trees have fallen.

Recommend adding gravel to car parking areas if budget allows. V Long recommends talking to new DPW Director about possibilities and their potential willingness to help if MCC pays for gravel. LeClair will write summary for MCC Annual Report.

13. Update on Tayzach Realty development of Map 5/Lot 7 on Willey Rd next to Miller Pond: No update

14. Report from TPPA including MCC joint educational outreach (Virginia) and joint booth at WWW Festival next summer.

W Sylvester – Grant received - \$34,450; TPPA & MMRG will have booth at Woods, Water & Wildlife Festival.

15. Recruitment of new Alternate member possibilities: Cassandra Underwood expressed interest, perhaps on a seasonal basis. Tom Shevlin – abutter at Heron Rookery, previously submitted application but never appointed.

W Sylvester term ends this year; has interest in continuing in alternate role.

L Pilkovsky expressed interest in serving as board member.

16. Virginia's report, including communications to MCC: no separate report

17. Other business: PLEASE THINK ABOUT PRIORITIES FOR MCC ACTION NEXT YEAR.

Discussion next year's priorities will be first topic of next meeting.

W Sylvester – strategy on board image.

V Long – improve public relations within town of Milton.

Annual Report information is due. W Sylvester and J LeClair will submit information; S Panish working on financials.

18. Monitoring Report Form: V Long asked members to help fill out background easement info on monitoring forms for MMRG. Info to be extracted from baseline documentation (i.e.: TOC, photos, deed info, survey plan, land use limitations, history, etc.); not required but would help V Long. L Pilkovsky volunteered for Lavalliere; B Weiss will do Lancey Ward.

19. Public input: No public

20. Confirm date of next month's meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 6 p.m.

21. Adjourn: *At 8:00 p.m. W Sylvester made a motion to adjourn. S Panish seconded. All in favor.*