

Town of Milton
424 White Mtn Highway
Milton NH, 03851



Conservation Committee
PO Box 310
(p)603-652-4501
(f)603-652-4120

9/29/20
Casey Road Public Hearing
5:30 PM

Present Members: Deb McCormack, Wayne Sylvester, Virginia Long, Cynthia Wyatt, Robert Weiss, Steve Panish

Absent Members: Karen Golab

Staff Present: Julius Peel

Members of the Public: Irene Gutowski, Claudia Caswell, Sharon Hey, Jeff Williams, Dan/Sue Bourque, Kari Lugren, Susan Flemming, Ian Whitmore, M.D, Jared Kane, Peg Hurd.

I. Call to Order:

4:30: Cynthia Wyatt, Chair of Milton Conservation Commission welcomes all to the Public Hearing

II. Casey Road Conservation Project:

Cynthia Wyatt, chair to the Conservation Commission, reads aloud a notice that explains the process in which the commission must complete to expend money towards conserving land.

The purpose of this hearing is to share information about the town-owned Casey Road Conservation Land and the plan of the Milton Conservation Commission to disburse \$20,000 from Milton's designated Conservation Fund to support Moose Mountains Regional Greenways in completing a Conservation Easement on the property to forever protect it from development. The Conservation Commission is in unanimous agreement that this conservation project serves the public interest of the town by safeguarding the Lyman Brook watershed and guaranteeing public access to hiking trails for recreation and educational purposes.

Per RSA 36-A:5-II If a Conservation Fund expenditure is to be used to acquire property or interest in property (such as a conservation easement) within the municipal boundaries, the following 3 steps are required.

1. The Board of Selectmen (or other governing body) must approve the expenditure. (Milton BOS approved on it on 7/30/2018 as part of the legal Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Milton and MMRG to conserve the property with MMRG to be easement holder.)
2. The Conservation Commission must hold a public hearing to allow citizens to comment on the proposed expenditure (the purpose of this hearing).
3. The Conservation Commission must vote to expend the conservation fund.

Virginia Long Chair of the Casey Road Land Protection Committee and Alternate Member of the MCC shares information about the history of the project, the terms of the Conservation Easement and recent trail improvements. In this she explains that the Casey road project is a 6-year-old task that the board has been working on to conserve a total of 79 acres of land. The land was obtained through the tax deeding process and a warrant article to conserve it was approved by the town through a vote; a conservation easement on the property is about to be completed. Allowed currently on the project is low impact recreation such as bird watching and hiking. Currently motorized activities like four wheeling is prohibited as with hunting.

Jill Eldredge, Executive Director of MMRG shares information about MMRG's role in stewarding the property as Conservation Easement holder and the about the project budget. In this she explains that the current budget is anticipated to be roughly \$47,000. Of this the initial costs that have already been incurred is roughly 26,000 while the remaining amount will be placed aside for unanticipated expenditures such as legal fees. Roughly half of the costs of this project have been raised through town means, while the rest was raised by the donations and other forms of private support.

III. Public Comment:

Cynthia Wyatt opens the floor to public comment and questions. Jeff LeClair raises concerns that this lot may be used as a logging operation from time to time. Virginia Long explains that if a logging cut is done it will have to be in consistent with the purposes of the conservation easement. This means it could be done, but not like commercial logging. Peg Hurd apologizes that the schools have not taken advantage of the property but explains that with COVID-19 things have really limited their ability to do these activities.

Motion: Wayne Sylvester motions to have the Milton Conservation Commission expend \$20,000 from the Conservation fund to support the efforts of Moose Mountain Regional Greenways in completion of their easement for the Casey Road conservation land project, Seconded by Steve Panish. The vote is approved unanimously. The Motion Passes allow the conservation to expend \$20,000 from the Conservation Fund.

Motion: Robert Weiss Motions to Adjourn, Seconded by Steve Panish. The vote is approved unanimously. The Motion Passes Adjourning the meeting.

DRAFT