

Town of Milton
424 White Mtn
Highway
Milton NH, 03851



Conservation Commission
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November 30, 2022
Meeting Minutes
6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Virginia Long (Chair), Steve Panish, Robert Weiss, Wayne Sylvester, Deb McCormack

Alternates: Jeff LeClair

Public:

Virginia Long, Chair, opened the public session at 6:01PM.

1. Welcome guests: No guests

2. Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serves as full members as needed

3. Event announcements:

A. Planning Board workshop on draft changes to Open Space Development ordinance, Tuesday, December 6 at 6 pm; public invited. V Long and S Panish will be away for this meeting and would love to have someone representing the CC there to stick up for the changes that they have suggested if anyone could make it.

B. MMRG Owl Prowl –led by Virginia and Charlie Bridges in early January, watch for MMRG’s announcement:

C. MMRG CC Mixer on the topic of Public Access (Charlotte Harding from Conservation Land Stewardship Program), Saturday Feb 4, 1-3 pm, Middleton Town Hall, lunch served...send questions in advance

4. Display/circulate CC materials for lending (sign-out sheet) and MCC mail:

Received a card from MMRG thanking the CC for their membership donation.

5. Review/Approve 11/2/2022 meeting minutes with corrections:

W Sylvester made a motion to accept the minutes. D McCormack second. All in favor.

6. Proposed Kearsarge Energy Solution Project at Payne Parcel (Virginia):

The latest is that the selectboard agreed to withdraw the Payne Parcel from the list of proposed solar projects.

7. Financial Report: (Steve) plan end of year expenditures:

S Panish does not have a financial report because he didn’t get any financial reports.

There should be no changes from last month other than any checks the board received. There were some checks. We are at about \$800 of unspent budget money. V Long has requested that they purchase some supplies: mailing return labels and envelopes. V Long already has purchased them. She is asking the board

to approve receipts. She purchased \$49.94 on 1000 business envelopes, \$27.45 on 1500 labels for a total of \$77.39.

S Panish made a motion to approve the \$77.39 reimbursement for V Long buying the supplies. R Weiss second. All in favor.

J LeClair checked prices on signs. The cheapest he found was 10X14 @ \$16.65 for 5 or more signs. Casey and Spaulding-no signs. Found green stakes for \$10.28 a piece. Need at least 4 signs. 10 signs should be sufficient.

W Sylvester made a motion to spend up to \$250 for signs, poles and screws. D McCormack second. All in favor.

V Long asked him to please make this purchase by the end of the year.

D McCormack suggested that the CC purchases a first aid kit.

W Sylvester made a motion for D McCormack to spend up to \$25 for the purchase of a first aid kit. B Weiss second. All in favor.

8. Open Space Development Zoning Ordinance: Planning Board workshop December 6. Mark Jacobs, the soil scientist. He is willing to review and or help develop ordinances. He is reviewing the planning boards modifications of the ordinances.

9. Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications OR Violations: Town Beach (town's reply to MCC comments sent in advance) Diane DeVries' comments. No new applications or violations

10. Town-owned Easements and Conservation lands:

A. Easements:

i. Kane Conservation update: V Long hasn't heard from Chris Kane yet.

ii. Current easement (Steve sent his monitoring report in advance): S Panish sent out the monitoring report.

B. Fee Properties:

i. Old Ski Area: The town voted to get an easement for this property, but it has never been done.

V Long wants to get a deed restriction. Would it be valuable to get a deed restriction written and approved by the selectboard and would only have to pay \$1000 or should we pursue another avenue?

The board thinks it is valuable to have something written. We could conceivably get the town attorney to work on a boiler plate deed restriction that we could apply to any of the properties.

S Panish made a motion to spend \$500 to have the town attorney start on a boiler plate land restriction deed. R Weiss second. All in favor.

ii. Jones Brook Park/Payne: Update from MMRG, also see Item #6. Maybe add some sensitive natural area signs once designed. More tires and a barrel were brought out. Brought the items to the dump.

iii. Spaulding Turnpike- Stewardship Walk report: approve monitoring report (sent out in advance) No one on the board has any changes they want to make to the monitoring report that

V Long sent out. V Long wants to add a sentence to the monitoring report's last question to remind next year's monitor's to do the boundary they didn't walk between the stone wall and the highway on the west side.

iv. Dames Brook: R Weiss hasn't been over there yet. He is going to wait until early Spring.

v. Casey Rd conservation Land: Add some no motorized vehicle signs. J LeClair- the stone bridge culvert area has been cleared. Rocks from the interior have fallen down so sooner or later that's going to jam up. The biggest thing coming up for over there on December 10 is that MMRG is going to be holding a training for volunteer land stewards and they are going to be having half the meeting explaining about easements and various techniques over at the church- 7 Steeple St- then they are going out to Casey Rd, and we can demonstrate our progress. Otherwise, things have been quiet. There have been school groups over there Jeff plans to go back out there to tidy things up before tourists show up.

vi. Ball Property: Put up no dogs allowed signs at Kettle Pond. No ATV signs around the perimeter.

11. Trail Volunteers Group Project: See Jeff's reports on Casey Rd and Jones Brook Park

12. MMRG projects in Milton: MMRG stewardship and land committee met and discussed various scenarios for the Jones Brook Park- If for some reason the Payne parcel would not be included the committee indicated that their interest in the project would remain high. It would not likely lessen the budget to get the easement done. The committee requests that the CC would be willing to defer the project for another year. The board agreed.

13. Workshop reports (NHACC Annual Meeting): D McCormack took three workshops. One was how to review wetlands permit application. She was supposed to get the power point but has not gotten it yet. Talked about dredge and fill VS expedited application. One thing they said was that if anyone has any general questions about a wetlands permit, not specific, you should call DES and ask for the inspector of the day. Another contact person who is an environmental consultant and wetlands specialist, Rick VandePoll. Prime wetlands do not have to be delineated every 5 years. Another class they took was New National Wetlands Inventory- NWI. You can go to Granite View for some wetlands planning. You can visit the NH Fish and Game for water fowl and water bird habitats. Third class D McCormack took was a Natural Resources Inventory- NRI. W Sylvester chose two different classes. Climate change with the state climatologist. Cyanobacteria

14. MCC files at Town Hall and Town Offices move schedule: Not sure on the exact moving date.

15. Town of Milton walking trails map:

A. update on distribution to date: V Long gave 50 of them to the recreation department. Some are placed on the bookshelf as you enter the town offices.

B. please take copies to put around town:

C. plan for more distribution/electronic dissemination: print 100 or so.

16. TPPA- request to strengthen zoning ordinance for steep slopes: No time to discuss. Keep on agenda.

17. Wetlands protections: No time to go over

A. Review Milton Town ordinances protecting wetlands and public waters

B. Brainstorm/consider next steps to better protect wetlands in Milton

C. Educate landowners- letter to wetland abutters

18. Educational Outreach: TPPA, Facebook, other: No report

19. Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Program: Joel DeStasio from trout unlimited, V Long has agreed for him to come to our next meeting because this project has to submit a wetlands application to DES.

20. Update on Recruitment of new Alternate Commission members: Diane DeVries

D McCormack is resigning from the conservation commission. Is J LeClair interested in becoming a full member of the CC? He will do it if Diane DeVries doesn't want to become a full member.

21. Place holder: 'conservation restriction' assessment option:

22. Place holder: Update on status of 3.04-acre parcel (tax/lot 41/81 abutting Casey Rd conservation Land:

23. Other business: Holly Kimball thanked the CC

24. Public Input:

25. Agenda items for next time:

26. Confirm date of next month's meeting: Wednesday January 4, 2023, at 6 pm

27. Adjourn: *W Sylvester made a motion to adjourn at 8:19. R Weiss second. All were in favor.*