

**Town of Milton**  
424 White Mtn  
Highway  
Milton NH, 03851



**Conservation Commission**  
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January 4, 2023  
Meeting Minutes  
6:00 PM

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Alternates:** Sharon Butrick

**Public:**

**Virginia Long, Chair, opened the public session at 6:03 PM.**

**1. Welcome guests:** Joel DeStasio- Trout Unlimited

**2. Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serves as full members as needed:** Jeff LeClair sat in for Deb McCormack.

**3. Joel presents DES wetland permit application for Sam Plummer Rd culvert project (engineering plans sent out in advance):** Joel discussed Trout Unlimited's plan for Sam Plummer Rd culvert. He explained what they are going to do and took questions from commissioners.

**4. Event announcements:**

- A.** MMRG CC Mixer , Sat, Feb 4, 1-3 pm at Middleton Town Hall, free lunch, CC members only, must pre-register! The topic is on public access and trails.
- B.** MMRG Owl prowl at Branch Hill Farm Camsie Anna Trail postponed 'til February.
- C.** NH Coverts project- A training to learn about natural resources and conserving them. 4 different workshops in May that UNH provides every year. \$50 to register.
- D.** NH Land Trust Coalition is also having a workshop- Hand and Hand- Conservation, Solar, and Housing. Thursday, February 16. Selts new location in Epping, NH.
- E.** NH Association of Conservation Commission- Leave no trace- Virtual town hall workshop- January 19, 1pm.

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

**6. Review/Approve 11/30/2022 meeting minutes with corrections:**

*J LeClair made a motion to accept the minutes with revisions. W Sylvester second. All in favor.*

**7. Financial Report: (Steve) plan end of year expenditures:** S Panish presented a listing of what the 2022 and the 2023 budgets are. This year's budget is a little lower than last year due to taking out legal defense money that is now being put into a

revolving/reserved fund every year.

## 8. Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications OR Violations (also see item #3)

**9. Trail Volunteers Group Update: Jeff LeClair reported:** The storm before Christmas knocked a pine over Casey Rd Conservation. A couple of soft spots further down the trail. (Virginia added that Veronica from MMRG is going to send over guidelines on what the CC can and can't do for maintenance on the trails.) The water came up to the roads edge on Jones Brook but dried up a week later. The new trail was high and dry. Most of the beaver dam was washed away. Trash was hauled out of that trail. New wildlife sighting on Jones Brook- a white rabbit- Snowshoe Hare. Encountered a couple with a dog at Jones Brook. People are noticing the trails.

## 10. Town-owned Easements and Conservation lands:

### A. Fee Properties:

- I. Jones Brook Park/Payne:** Jill assured V Long that she is going to work on a memorandum of understanding about getting an easement on it that the town and MMRG would sign.
- II. Casey Rd Conservation Land:** When MMRG's Stewardship workshop was held there, an abutter contacted V Long wondering what was happening on Casey Rd conservation. He would like to be notified in the future of other workshops. Discussion on whether or not abutters need to be notified of events on public access and if the CC should get notified when events are going to happen. The consensus of commissioner's was that notification of abutters is not needed since it is public access land. Jeff said if he knows an event will happen there, he would be willing to put up a sign that day.
- III. Spaulding Turnpike:**
- IV. Dames Brook:**
- V. Old Ski Area:** V Long is wondering how to proceed with getting a deed restriction. Discussion on different options. Consensus to take sample deed restriction to BOS, ask if they will sign something similar for Old Ski Area.
- VI. Ball Property:** Norway Plains has found a significant encroachment on this property. Boundary markers may have been removed. Virginia reported encroachment to Chris Jacobs to refer to BOS. Boundary markers are disappearing on other easement properties also.

### B. EASEMENTS:

#### I. Kane Conservation update:

- i. Frizzell:** 100 feet along a stream in a back land. No direct access and it goes along Lyman Brook. There's evidence of ATV's and a trail and there are puddles but no violations because motor vehicles are allowed on that easement. He didn't think any of the trail erosion was going into the stream.
- ii. Lancey Ward:** That is a complicated looking easement. Very jagged. All around a wetland and abuts three different properties. This property boundary is hard to follow. There may be a chicken coop. Lack of monumentation. Makes it hard to determine if there's encroachment or not. Virginia will talk to BOS about what to do about survey stakes being removed. Steve suggests perhaps add signs that say it is illegal to remove survey marker?
- iii. Lavalliere:** This is located off Mason Rd. Nothing to report here although getting to it is a trick because you are walking across posted property.
- iv. Liberty Circle:** This one has the beaver dam next to Casey Rd. The boundary needs to be marked. V Long noticed a septic smell here last year. Kane didn't make a notation one way or another.
- v. Lyman Brook:** There are a couple of bridges and a deck with a couple of chairs on it. One was a little tiny arched bridge, and one was a long and kind of a boardwalk. He thought all of those were in the easement in a section that is called a "common Area". This also has an easement in the back of individual lots. The common area may be owned by an HOA. The bridges are not allowed. There are no structures allowed. The only structures allowed are for the purposes of nature observation in the common area.
- vi. Silver Springs:** No changes
- vii. Wallace Way:** Gary Tremblay offered to donate the land to the town. We said no thank you. It was easier to follow the boundaries this year because it was dryer.
- viii. Nute Easement:** No problems. Very well marked.

11. **MMRG projects in Milton:** skip
12. **Workshop reports:** Jeff LeClair reported on MMRG Stewardship workshop held at Casey Rd.
13. **MCC files at Town Hall and Town Offices move schedule:** No update
14. **Town of Milton walking trails map:**
  - A. **Update on distribution to date:**
  - B. **Please take copies to put around town:** Milton Library promises to post there soon.
  - C. **Plan for more distribution/electronic dissemination:**
15. **TPPA- request to strengthen zoning ordinance for steep slopes:** Jen King asked the MCC for a steep slope's ordinance. It is a good idea to have one in place. State has model ordinance for steep slopes which could be a starting point. We would need to work with planning board to be sure they are behind it.
16. **Wetlands protections: consider taking a walk to get to know Miller Brook wetland**
  - A. **Review Milton Town ordinances protecting wetlands and public waters**
  - B. **Brainstorm/consider next steps to better protect wetlands in Milton:** Discussion on what should be in the letter. Jeff quoted important statistics about world wetlands.
  - C. **Educate landowners- letter to wetland abutters:** Send educational letters to wetland abutters.
17. **Open Space Development Zoning Ordinance- update:** members signed card to thank Marc Jacobs for his contributions.
18. **Educational Outreach: TPPA, Facebook, other:**
19. **Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Program:** See agenda #3
20. **Update on Recruitment of new Alternate Commission members:** Diane DeVries- Her appointment will be on the selectmen's January '23 agenda.
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:**
24. **Public Input:**
25. **Agenda items for next time: continue discussion of protecting Milton's significant wetlands**
26. **Confirm date of next month's meeting:** February 1, 2023
27. **Adjournment:** *S Panish moved to adjourn. R Weiss second. All in favor.*