

Town of Milton

Conservation Commission



PO Box 310
424 White Mountain Highway
Milton, NH 03851
(p)603-652-4501
(f)603-652-4120

12/1/2021

Meeting Minutes

6:00PM

ATTENDANCE:

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

Public: Cynthia Wyatt, Jeff LeClair, Ian Whitmore, Karen Golab, Dan Bisson, Sharon Buttrick
Kari Lygren

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

1.) Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serve as full members if needed:

All committee members were present.

2.) Introduce/Welcome Guests: Jeff LeClair and Cynthia Wyatt and others:

Virginia introduced the guests.

3.) Present MCC appreciation gift to Cynthia Wyatt:

Cynthia Wyatt was presented with a gift in appreciation of her many years of service to the town and the Conservation Commission. She was thanked for all her time, effort, many skills and energy.

Members of the audience thanked her for being a mentor and a great role model to them and many others and noted many people learned so much from her. Wayne passed along message from Andy Rawson thanking her for being part of the Milton community.

4.) Hear from Cynthia Wyatt about Branch Hill Farm's new Camsie Anna Nature Trail:

Cynthia told about the new trail which was developed in honor of her niece. At this sanctuary there is something for everyone including a gentle walk at the farm with many features and land transitions, birdhouses and uses the power of nature to provide healing.

5.) Review/Approve 11/3/21 meeting minutes:

Steve motioned to approve minutes with noted corrections. Wayne seconded the motion. All were in favor; 11/3/2021 minutes were approved.

6.) Give authority to Milton Land Use Agent Suzanne Purdy to sign on behalf of the CC/Chair on letters from the CC, when instructed by Chair's email or phone to do so:

Virginia explained the need to allow the new Land Use Clerk, Suzanne Purdy, the ability to sign and mail specific letters in case Virginia is unable to within a certain time period.

Deb – motion to give authority to Suzanne Purdy to sign on behalf of the Conservation Commission Chair on letters from the CC, when instructed by Chair's email or phone to do so. Steve seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

7.) Review Wetlands Permit Applications:

Virginia explained the CC has 25 days upon application receipt to decide if they will make comments and send to DES to make comments; once decided comments must be sent back by 40 days upon receipt.

They discussed having Virginia and Wayne have the authority to decide to make comments. Virginia



indicated keeping the application at the town hall. Deb suggested designating certain members to review and make comments. Wayne indicated some applications are more complicated than others and sometimes specific technical knowledge is needed to look at the applications. Virginia – important to note DES also looks at the applications for another set of eyes.

Yogi Bear Jellystone: Improvement to an existing boat launch. Steve said anyone who wants to take a look is OK. They are OK with Wayne and Virginia reviewing the permit.

Bolan Road: Virginia signed.

Susan Pickering (agent Michael Mariano) Mason Road – Site Visit? Standard Dredge & Fill – they are doing some filling in a wetland to take care of the driveway. Upon review they are concerned with amount of water flowing vs what the agent reported. They can submit a letter or the CC can do a site visit. They reviewed the letter and indicated this should be between Mariano and DES.

Wayne motioned to approve the letter as written. Steve seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Vachon and Miller (agent Thomas Varney) if full application is received:

Virginia noted the wetland permits reviews require a lot of time.

8.) Review publicity / plans for Timber Harvest Workshop on December 4th with Jon Nute:

Everything is set for the Timber Harvest Workshop on December 4th.

9.) Financial Report, Budget, Invoices:

Steve – currently no reports to give as it's too early in the month. There is one new bill for committee approval – Deb: training reimbursement for \$35.00.

Steve – motioned to approve reimbursement payment to Deb McCormack for the amount of \$35.00 for her attendance at training. Virginia seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Steve also asked for a pre-approval for upcoming water testing bill costing between \$1,000 to \$1,500.

He believes the bill should be \$1,116.00. He indicated this pre-approval will allow the invoice to be paid once minutes are approved at next meeting.

Steve – motioned to approve the pre-approval of the water testing bill, not to exceed \$2,000. Virginia seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

10.) CRLPC Update – result of our letter to BOS:

Virginia explained the BOS officially disbanded the Casey Road committee at the November 15th meeting.

11.) Update on CRLPC recommendation for new Trails Committee – result of our letter to BOS:

Virginia made a presentation to the BOS regarding recommendation for development of a new town Trails Committee. The BOS was very interested in this potential new committee. Chris Jacobs, Town Administrator, will send information to Virginia including a draft charge for new committee. Committee members discussed if the committee would be a sub-committee and if the board should be appointed and financial implications for the town. Jeff volunteered to act as Steward for Casey Road since his property is in close proximity. He indicated he has ideas for potential trails and Virginia said this should wait until the new Trails Committee begins.

12.) Chris Kane preliminary monitoring report – continuing issue – boundaries of Ball property: Steve gave an update and explained some of the boundaries are pins. Currently there is surveyors tape indicating



the boundaries which will not last. He presented his idea to use PVC pipes to attach the CC boundary sign and drive in over the existing pin. They are waiting for the final report and Chris indicated he could not find all the boundaries of the Ball property. A question regarding who is Chris Kane, and what he does – Chris Kane is a contracted provider who monitors all the properties for the CC. He sends reports including maps and photos and checks to ensure all the properties are OK.

- 13.) **Educational Outreach Committee update, including MCC FB page:** This has transitioned to the TPAA with Virginia as the representative.

- 14.) **Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Project:** The ARM grant was received. Trout Unlimited helped to write the grant. Virginia also thanked Pat Smith for his help.

- 15.) **Placeholder: Update on status of 3.04 acre parcel (tax/lot/41/81) abutting Casey Rd Conservation Land (NONE):**

- 16.) **Update on Recruitment of new alternate Commission members:**

Earlier in the meeting Virginia introduced Sharon Buttrick, Kari Lygren and Jeff LeClair as potential alternates. Jeff questioned why the need for alternates. Virginia explained the role of members and alternates.

Dan indicated he also has interest in being part of the committee. Virginia explained the committee can have three alternates (currently there are none). The size of the committee can be expanded as well. She encouraged those in attendance to continue their consideration and would be happy to have any of them join. Wayne said even if they would not join, they can continue to attend meetings and welcomed any public comment. Sharon indicated her interest in helping with the monitoring and wants to get involved.

- 17.) **Public input:** Dan questioned the meeting minutes of the previous meeting, specifically regarding the discussion with Mr. Cheney. There was no site walk scheduled yet of the property. He also questioned if the environmental impact study had taken place. Virginia said the letter had been submitted to the planning board which would be part of the minutes.

- 18.) **Other business:** Regarding Gale review: Virginia had contacted Bruce Woodruff regarding an environmental impact review with respect to runoff. Bruce told her that a review of the alteration of terrain permit has already been done by Gale Associates. She had just received the response from Bruce indicating the review stated overall it's a good plan with some concerns. Dan said the issue is mainly offsite involving timbering and increased erosion. Since the Gale review only deals with alteration of terrain, Steve recommended Dan submit photos directly to Bruce Woodruff.

- 19.) **Confirm next meeting date: Wednesday, January 5, 6:00PM.**

- 20.) **Adjourn:**

Deb – motioned to adjourn at 7:45PM. Bob – seconded the motion.
All were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Town of Milton
424 White Mtn Highway
Milton NH, 03851



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

David Price, East Region Supervisor
NHDES Wetlands Bureau
29 Hazen Drive
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: File # 2021-03489

Dear Mr. Price,

The Milton Conservation Commission met on 12/1/2021 and unanimously approved the following comments about the standard Dredge and Fill minimum impact wetland application of Susan Pickering, file #2021-03489.

At the invitation of authorized agent, Michael Mariano, MCC Chair Virginia Long made a visit to the site on 11/17/2021 and took several photographs (attached). The pink flags in the photos around the wet area had been previously put in place by Mr. Mariano.

- As is evident in the attached photos, Ms. Long observed considerably more flowing water in the proposed driveway area than had been documented by Mr. Mariano in the wetland application. The MCC therefore suggests that the description of the impact area should include an intermittent/ephemeral stream.
- Because of this observation of greater flow, we suggest that the size of the culvert be re-evaluated to make sure it is not undersized.
- We would like to know if the applicant and her agent have considered all means to mitigate impact, such as described in the 2019 DES Handbook, Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization.
- We would like to call attention to the fact that this parcel is part of a Supporting Landscape in the Wildlife Action Plan's Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition, where the adjoining Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Region and State is along the Hart Brook corridor, into which these waters flow. Preserving the quality of surface waters such as Hart Brook is a stated goal of Milton's Master Plan and part of the mission of the Conservation Commission.
- We note the omission of applicant's and agent's initials on page 6 of the application.

Sincerely,

Suzanne G. Purdy
Town of Milton Land Use Clerk/ Administrative Assistant
On behalf of the Milton Conservation Commission

CC by email:

Susan Pickering
1108 Piscassic Street
Newmarket, NH 03857

Michael Mariano
Highland Soil Services
75 Prospect Street
Somersworth, NH 03878