

# Town of Milton

## Conservation Commission



PO Box 310  
424 White Mountain Highway  
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(p)603-652-4501  
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**1/10/2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

**6:00PM**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Public:** Jeff LeClair, Dan Bisson, Sharon Buttrick, Renata Gamache

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:**

### **3.) Display/Circulate CC materials for lending:**

Forestry Forensic book – Tom Wessels

NH Guide to Upland Invasive Species – NH Dept of Ag

State of NH Birds – A Conservation Guide

### **4.) Review/Approve 12/1/2021 meeting minutes:**

The minutes were not reviewed at this meeting; will add to February agenda.

### **5.) Review/Report on Wetlands Permit Applications:**

BOS accepted Commission letter submitted. Wayne inspected – it had just snowed. Adjacent to disc golf course – no markers – vernal pool. Met with George White, Manager. Wanted the Commission to stake out the cabins and new pool. No ID of wetlands near fish pond. They put up stakes per BOS requirement. If disc goes into the wetlands, not covered through insurance. Major concern – don't cut beyond marked trees.

Shore land notification – Wetland permit Pickering – stream, not wetlands. Response to our comments – soil scientist said is wetlands – DES will decide.

### **6.) Chris Kane monitoring reports (distributed in advance):** Discuss violations later; ask for corrections from Mr. Kane. Two different types of town conservation properties:

a.) Easement properties: Jonathan Nute spelling corrected; Deleted Silver Spring estate address.

Virginia – regarding landowners on easements – several are new and may not be aware they have an easement. The Commission will need to provide education by walking their land and look at the easement.

b.) Fee (town-owned properties): Should include Dames Brook.

c.) Invoice: Virginia – Hourly fees? Steve – what are increases for? Is a substantial difference. Is this for higher rate or increased hours? Virginia – approval to pay?

Steve – motioned to approve paying Chris Kane invoice and to pay from professional services line-item from budget. Wayne – seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.



d.) Discussion CC taking on monitoring of fee properties: Virginia – officially tell Mr. Kane, the Commission will take over the monitoring of town-owned properties? Would bring the cost down. While the Commission is not legally responsible to do, it might be easier if the Commission does this. However, would increase responsibility for Commission members. Five town-owned properties: Ball, Jones Brook, Dames Brook, Spaulding Turnpike, Old Ski area.

Wayne – agrees this is something the Commission should do (perhaps every other year instead of yearly?). Virginia – will review reports to get history of properties. Recommended each Commission member take responsibility for one property – would include report writing, recruiting others to review property with them, etc.

Steve – made a motion to adopt the town-owned lands and inform Chris Kane he will not need to monitor them in the future. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Steve – motioned to allow him to assume responsibility for monitoring the Currant easement. Wayne seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Wayne – since the Commission is assuming more responsibility, when is it the right time to approach the BOS regarding budget increases? Virginia – will remind the BOS this is a legal obligation for the town and the Conservation Commission carries this out for the town.

**7.) Financial Report, Budget, Invoices:**

Steve reported he did not get the January financial report yet (this is for December timeline). Steve read the December report (for November). There were no bills submitted in November.

Wayne – made a motion to accept the financial reports as written. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Steve also reported he has not yet received next year's budget from the town. December invoices are ~\$2,300 in total. There is also a \$2,700 invoice for Chris Kane. Apparently, finance did not pay a 2020 invoice in 2020, and instead paid it from the 2021 budget. Steve recommends moving \$1,000 from the culvert project into the Conservation Commission fund or move it to the 2022 budget.

Bob – motion to pay the previously approved \$1,000 for the Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Project from the Conservation Fund Unrestricted Account and to submit the Kane Conservation \$2,700 invoice to be paid out of the 2021 CC budget. Deb seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Steve – important to let BOS know the Commission is working to reduce the monitoring bill going forward. Virginia – is it possible to unrestrict \$15,000 in the monitoring fund? Steve – maybe in the future, but not now. However, if the Commission knows they will have a major expenditure, to let the BOS know beforehand. Steve – request to approve the December report with what was submitted and if there are major changes, the Commission can revote at the next meeting.

Wayne – motion to accept the Draft January report as written. Bob seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

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**8.) Casey Road Conservation Land Update:**

- a.) Winter Parking – snow removal pushed far enough back to allow for parking.
- b.) State of trails/kiosk, signs – Jeff reported overall everything seems to be OK. The kiosk has been impacted by the weather and needs some small repairs.
- c.) Approve donations report (distributed in advance) - Virginia sent out the last quarterly donations report. There were a few in-kind donations for the Casey Road celebration. A few minor changes were made to the report.
- d.) Ask BOS to rescind requirement to submit quarterly reports – Virginia will send a request to the BOS asking to stop the need to submit reports.

**9.) Update on Trails Committee request to BOS:**

Virginia – Chris Jacobs said he is working on creating a charge – she has not heard from him yet on this and will follow-up with him.

**10.) Report on Timber Harvest Workshop on December 4<sup>th</sup> with Jonathan Nute:**

Smaller turnout but went well.

**11.) Review concept of town of Milton trails map to be created by Peter Goodwin:**

Peter Goodwin is willing to work with the Commission to create a very nice map. He indicated he would volunteer his time to do this. Wayne – a map would be very beneficial and would give the public an opportunity to see all the options available. Virginia has drawn up a list of properties with public access to parking. These would include only walking trails, not ATV/snowmobile. Wayne – spoke with Adam Vought (Jellystone Manager) who indicated there are many campers who request nearby trails. Virginia – will ask if the town could pay for the printing and not take this out of Commission budget. All members indicated they were OK with moving forward with Peter.

**12.) Educational Outreach: TPPA, Facebook, Other:** Virginia will share a post regarding HB1066 on the FB page.

**13.) Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Project:** The stream has been surveyed and the grant has been received. It is moving along – next step is for engineering design work to be completed.

**14.) Update on Northeast Pond Condo Development:** There is a public hearing scheduled in February by the Planning Board. It was reported the setback was increased to 100 feet and there are height limits.

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

**16.) Update on Recruitment of new alternate Commission members:** Virginia questioned those in attendance if there was any interest in serving as Alternates and if yes, they should submit an email to Chris Jacobs. There is currently space for three alternates. Sharon said she had submitted her letter of interest.

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17.) **Announce upcoming NH Coverts Training:** The UNH Cooperative Extension has a program that trains people to become coverts. This is an opportunity to learn about wildlife and conservation. Once trained, participants are then expected to go out and educate others. For the upcoming training, applications are needed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$50.00 – it was questioned if the town might pay for the training.

18.) **Public input:** There was no additional public input.

19.) **Other Business:**

There is a public hearing for the Planning Board on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Specific discussion item is a Gateway overlay which could expand the definition of commercial residential zone. This could turn more property into commercial property along the lake which could have major impact on the lake itself. Commission members will suggest to Bruce to support creating a special commercial zone to help protect the lake (split zone definition). Virginia – maybe submit a letter from the Conservation Commission or attend the upcoming meeting as individuals to determine what exactly this is about. Wayne – would rather attend as an individual.

Who motioned to authorize Virginia to write letter cautioning the Planning Board regarding any development along Milton 3 Ponds that could have serious consequences. Steve seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

20.) **Agenda for next time:** Master Plan Action Items.

21.) **Confirm next meeting date:** Tuesday, February 8, 6:00PM.

22.) **Adjourn:**

Steve – motioned to adjourn at 8:00PM. Bob – seconded the motion. All were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.