

Town of Milton

Conservation Commission



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

7/6/2022

Meeting Minutes

6:00PM

ATTENDANCE:

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

Alternates: Jeff LeClair, Sharon Buttrick

Public: Jeff Lord, Michael Schneider

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.**
- 2.) **Welcome to guests in attendance:** Jeff Lord and Michael Schneider
- 3.) **Display/Circulate CC materials for lending (sign-out sheet):** There were none.
- 4.) **Event announcements:** MS4 Educational Event, July 9th.
- 5.) **Review/Approve 6/1/2022 meeting minutes:**

6/1/2022 minutes: Wayne – motion to **approve the 6/1/2022 minutes** with corrections. Seconded by Steve. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

- 6.) **Required recommendation (pro/con) about transfer of town-owned parcel Map 32/Lot 134 to Jerry and Roberta Pelletier.** Virginia – the Board of Selectmen are working to get rid of odds and ends of properties that are no use to the town. As part of the process, the BOS has to ask the MCC for their recommendation.

Bob – Motion to recommend transfer Map 32/Lot 134 as proposed by the Town of Milton. Seconded by Steve. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

7.) Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications or Violations:

Grondin – 178 St James: Wayne and Virginia reviewed the permit. They agreed there are no major concerns. Stony Ridge Environmental submitted the permit application. The reason for this action is due to increase in boat wakes which can lead to severe bank erosion. Virginia – there were some minor inconsistencies which were pointed out to Stony Ridge; they indicated they would fix these. Virginia will sign the permit.

- 8.) **MS4 Educational Outreach Event, July 9th, 10:30-12PM- Milton Town Beach Pavilion:** The Commission discussed and planned final event details. There is a slight program change to an interactive format which will be directed more to children.

9.) Financial Report, Budget:

Steve: There have been no changes to the Conservation Fund. So far ~\$100 has been spent mostly toward refunds.

- 10.) **Next steps follow-up of Master Plan discussions: host educational event for MS4? Educates ourselves and PB about process to designate Prime Wetlands, other outcomes**

- 11.) **Update on formation of new Town of Milton Trails Committee:** Virginia reported from the last BOS meeting who indicated they do not want to be in charge and would like this to be a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. Humphrey Williams is OK with this having a more informal structure and believes the MCC would do a better job of overseeing it. Virginia did tell the BOS that MCC may not want



to do the Trails Committee and this would be discussed at the meeting. Guidelines draft was forwarded to the commission members to help understand what trail volunteers can and cannot do. Volunteers would need to understand if they are interested in building new trails, they would then have to start meeting and take meeting minutes. Jeff asked about donations in kind – this can include items (not cash) including labor. The MCC is authorized to receive up to donations of \$100 or in kind. Sharon questioned if there is any budget for a Trails Committee? Virginia – yes up to \$100/yearly for expenditures. Steve also said the misc. budget could be used and to make sure to always save receipts. Sharon asked if there has been any interest in this committee? Jeff said he had one person who did reach out. Jeff Lord and Mike Schneider attended this meeting and are interested to learn more about the Trails Committee. Virginia stress there can be a lot of flexibility; the committee should keep MCC informed of various projects or when they have a larger project to undertake. Sharon liked the guidelines as they are concise and covers everything. Virginia asked if everyone was OK to the draft guidelines? Yes, they are OK. Mike Schneider questioned are there specific trails involved? Virginia – currently it would be Casey Road and Jones Brook Park. There are some other lands that maybe in the future trails could be added; examples are Old Ski area and Spaulding Turnpike area. Jeff said he thinks it's most important to do Jones Brook Park next. He would like to start this slowly and figure out what to do as they go along. A discussion of how to 'kill' the poison ivy if it's located next to stream. Steve recommended the use of 'Rodeo' as it's not toxic to wetlands. This is probably something to consider including in the policy the use of herbicides. While some would rather stay away from the use of herbicides Virginia said it is up to the individual. Wayne recommended contacting the UNH Extension and contacting Al Goodwin at Nute to discuss using students for help since there is a 20-hour community service requirement at Nute. Virginia will also find out if volunteers will need to sign any liability waivers.

**12.) Town-owned Easements and Conservation Lands:
Easements:**

Update on last month's walk at Dames Brook: Question if Two-Boards Bridge could possibly be a violation? Unsure if it's located on conservation land. Virginia suggested next time to walk the boundary in the opposite direction. Bob plans to monitor this area again in the fall and plans to add boundary markers. Virginia will write a letter to send to abutters reminding them this is town-owned property and be aware of the boundary, not to cut trees, etc. Committee members will set another walk for August – Ball property with about 20-30 acres – walk is set for July 30th at 9AM. They agreed this is providing them with good practice.

13.) Next steps follow-up of Master Plan discussions: Virginia – regarding designation of a prime wetland, she reached out to several folks on how best to proceed. SRPC could provide some limited resources. There could be some funding opportunities. She also reached out to Stony Ridge Environmental and they said they could help with some aspects. They all thought it would be a good idea to reach out to communities, such as Barrington or Wolfeboro, who have already done this. Virginia will continue to do the research. There is some money in the budget to help with this: for Professional Services, the Budget is \$4,500 (\$1,400 is encumbered for Kane Monitoring); \$3000 is still available which probably will not be enough to cover. It was questioned if Conservation Funds could be used? This would be a good use of budgeted monies. Wayne thought fall/winter time would be a better time for this type of project and to work toward having this ready for the March, 2023 vote (and if not by then, 2024). Jeff Lord questioned what is Prime Wetlands? Virginia explained this process gives extra protections toward a property.

14.) Update on town of Milton trails map to be created by Peter Goodwin: Virginia reported she is working with Peter and is editing the map. Additional information and photos need to be added. Everyone is OK

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with the general layout. Wayne said the manager of Yogi Bear Campground gets many requests for family hiking trails.

15.) Casey Road Conservation Land updates (Jeff).

16.) Educational Outreach: TPPA, Facebook, Other:

17.) Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Project: Project is stalled for the moment; received another grant however project may not happen this year.

18.) Update on Northeast Pond Condo Development.

19.) Update on Recruitment of new alternate Commission members: There was no update.

20.) Update on status of 3.04-acre parcel (tax lot 41/81) abutting Casey Rd Conservation Land: No update.

21.) Update on organizing MCC Files at Town Hall: Sharon gave an update on this project – she is still try to figure out the current filing system.

22.) Public input:

23.) Other Business: Deb questioned if there is any interest in participating in next year's July 4th Parade? This item was tabled for possible future discussion.

24.) Confirm next meeting date: Wednesday, August 3, 6:00PM.

25.) Adjourn:

Steve – motioned to adjourn at 8:10PM. Wayne – seconded the motion. All were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.