

Town of Milton

Conservation Commission



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

10/5/2022

Meeting Minutes

6:00PM

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Virginia Long (Chair), Steve Panish, Robert Weiss, Deb McCormack, Wayne Sylvester, Alternate Jeff LeClair, Alternate Sharon Buttrick
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:** There were no guests.

3.) **Event announcements:**

Public Hearings on proposed Conservation Fund Donations to MMRG easement projects (Jones Brook Park and Mason Road) on 11/2/2022 at 6PM and 6:20PM in Town Hall Meeting Room (at start of MCC monthly meetings)

4.) **Display/Circulate CC materials for lending (sign-out sheet):**

5.) **Review/Approve 9/7/2022 meeting minutes:**

9/7/2022 minutes: Wayne – motion to **approve the 9/7/2022 minutes** with corrections. Seconded by Bob. Deb, Bob, Virginia, Steve and Wayne voted to approve; the motion was approved.

6.) **Open Space Development Zoning Ordinance – review sections 11 and 12 with Virginia’s comments to Bruce Woodruff and Bruce’s revisions for Planning Board:** Virginia previously sent a summary of her changes along with revisions from Bruce Woodruff which had been discussed with the Planning Board. They may have more changes – the next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for October 18th. Virginia will send any information from tonight’s meeting to Bruce in advance of their meeting. Steve also had a couple of suggested changes to add. Further discussion of Virginia and Steve’s changes occurred. Members are unsure if any suggestions would be accepted by the Planning Board. Steve recommends a more substantial conservation-enforced ordinance where a subdivision would have denser buildings and more recreational space. Virginia feels the current Planning Board is more pro-development. Wayne agrees with Steve’s suggestion for the 50% buildable area and feels the Planning Board will push back on this. Steve said this is a recommendation from the state. Virginia recommends that the Ordinance should also define what non-buildable is – model ordinance definitions plus vernal pools. Further discussion regarding allowed activities including horseback riding, cycling, and snowmobiling – the latter should not be allowed unless the property has at least 100 acres and should be 1000 feet from buildings. Bob – what if the trail is already there? Virginia – specify this restriction for new trails. The Planning Board should consult with MCC before allowing cycling and horseback riding in open spaces.

Herbicide, pesticide, fertilizer use – this should be addressed if to be used within a certain distance of wetlands or shorelands. Steve – any use of the substances should be done by a state approved and licensed applicator. They are trained in environmental regulations. Virginia – what about fertilizers? Steve – there are MS4 requirements. Also agriculture is allowed in open space areas. Virginia will ask Bruce how other towns handle these substances. Steve – MS4 does make Milton different than other towns. Sharon – the document references Best Management Practices. Virginia will gather all the suggestions and comments to send to Bruce and may try to attend the next Planning Board meeting.

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Wayne – Virginia does a great job and should be recognized. Bruce also did indicate he wants to hear from the MCC. DID WE VOTE ON MY LIST OF PROPOSED COMMENTS OR NOT?

7.) Request to place Geocache in stone wall behind welcome sign – Julie Davis: Casey Road.

Steve – Motion to allow the new geocache be added in the stone wall behind the welcome sign at Casey Road. Seconded by Wayne. Deb, Virginia, Steve and Wayne were in favor; Bob abstained – the motion was approved.

8.) Wetlands Protections:

a.) **Review priorities of which wetlands need more protections:** Virginia sent a spreadsheet outlining which properties need additional protections.

b.) **Possible timber cut violations on Lyman Brook wetland (Heron rookery):** Within the 25 foot buffer some timber cuts may occur. Town ordinance says to obey the Best Management Practices. Virginia had contacted Jonathan Nute who said it was just a minor infraction and recommended leaving it alone. Virginia – not all the vegetative buffer was left intact and needs to be restored.

c.) **Un-inventoried wetlands in West Milton (prioritized in Coastal Watershed Plan):**

d.) **Review Milton Town ordinances protecting wetlands and public waters:** Virginia asked the members to become familiar with the town's zoning ordinances especially the wetlands ordinance for discussion at a future meeting.

e.) **Brainstorm/consider next steps to better protect wetlands in Milton:**

f.) **Educate landowners – letter to wetland abutters:** Need to increase outreach to abutters. Virginia recommends a mailing to anyone who lives next to wetlands. This would be ~300 letters with a cost of ~\$350-\$500. Steve – we do have discretion to use the budget. Sharon agrees this would be the best way to target those residents. Deb will check into bulk mail which may be less expensive.

9.) Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications or Violations:

a.) **Milton Town Beach Standard Wetlands Permit submitted by Horizon's Engineering (Virginia and Wayne reviewed and agreed it needs comments):** This application is for a boat dock and boat launch. The launch needs to be longer due to lake shallowness. The town has been saving for several years to have this done. Both Wayne and Virginia are concerned about the lack of plantings in the design and potential erosion; the retaining wall at the top will not prevent erosion down to the boat launch. Virginia does think the wall will be replaced but is unsure what that will be. She has drafted a letter to submit and will also question the concrete wall specifically -- will the wall be renovated and how will erosion be controlled above the wall (if the wall is not replaced or repaired). They wondered if the plans understated the expected future use of the launch. Wayne believes there will be larger boats on the lake and said the campground is putting in their own launch. Virginia – will question qualifications on use and impact on the water quality.

Wayne – Motion to approve the letter to Mr. Price dated October 5th with discussed additions. Seconded by Deb. Deb, Virginia, Steve and Wayne were in favor; Bob abstained ?? – the motion was approved.

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10.) Financial Report, Budget:

Steve: There are no changes. Jeff submitted receipts for minor purchases.

Steve – Motion to approve \$23.21 reimbursement to Jeff for trail maintenance. Seconded by Wayne. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Steve – Motion to approve \$20.00 reimbursement to Jeff for trails workshop. Seconded by Wayne. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

11.) Town-owned Easements and Conservation Lands:

Easements: Kane Conservation will monitor in late September; Steve will monitor Current easement.

Fee properties:

Old Ski Area update: Update on plan to get easement (Virginia) – there was no news.

Jones Brook Park: monitoring report on September Stewardship walk (draft sent in advance) – MMRG

Easement: MMRG should discuss this month.

Spaulding Turnpike: next stewardship walk in November? postpone

Ball Property: report on 9/22 Wildlife Habitat Assessment Walk with Rebecca Digirolomo and Matt

Tarr: Consider public use; remove No Trespassing signs? Add signage? Further discussion at November meeting. Virginia did not post this on Facebook as Matt discouraged public use.

12.) MMRG Projects in Milton: Public hearings set for November 2nd at 6PM and 6:20PM: approve

invitation letters to abutters, address and stuff envelopes: They will do a site walk at Mason Rd property prior to the public hearings – scheduled October 29th at 8:30AM. Letters to abutters will be sent – while this is not a requirement it is a good way to provide information to the abutters and build good will. Letters approved by general consensus.

13.) Deb report on two recent workshops – Invasives Control, NH Coastal Watershed Plan: Deb reported she attended an additional workshop on Lidar Mapping. Deb – they were very informative. The NH Coastal Watershed Plan recommends a goal of conserving at least 4,000 acres per year, and focusing on conservation and agriculture. Attendees stressed the importance of concentrating on what has already been conserved. MCC Commissioners agreed with this focus. It's also important to provide education and resources to the highway department, hunters, farmers, etc.

14.) Trails Volunteer Group: Jeff provided an update on Casey Road: they are working on an annex of the trail with a potential future trail. The bus parking sign has been replaced. Jones Brook: They completed a trail and in spring will look to possibly extend a trail. Signage was added. Jeff and Mike are going to the NH Land Trust "Thinking About Trails" Conference.

15.) Town of Milton walking trails map: Update on distribution to date; plan for printing/distribution/electronic dissemination: Virginia – all of the Trails Maps at the recent election were taken. It was also in the recent Milton Gazette and on the Milton Facebook pages.

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- 136 16.) New: Conservation Restriction assessment options:
137 17.) Educational Outreach: TPPA, Facebook, Other.
138 18.) Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Project:
139 19.) Update on Northeast Pond Condo Development.
140 20.) Update on Recruitment of new alternate Commission members:
141 21.) Update on status of 3.04-acre parcel (tax lot 41/81) abutting Casey Rd Conservation Land:
142 22.) Update on organizing MCC Files at Town Hall:
143 23.) Public input:
144 24.) Other Business: Wayne asked if there has been any discussion about committee tables at the upcoming
145 election? Virginia has not heard anything about this.
146
147 November 5th Conference through the NHACC – cost is \$60.00 per person. There are a lot of good
148 workshops. MCC will pay for attendance.
149 25.) Confirm next meeting date: Wednesday, November 2, 6:00PM.
150 26.) Adjourn:

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152 Steve – motioned to adjourn at 8:17PM. Wayne – seconded the motion. All were in favor; the meeting
153 adjourned at 8:17PM.
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