

Milton Conservation Commission September 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Paul Blanc, Cynthia Wyatt, Steve Panish, Wayne Sylvester Alt. Also in attendance Dana Crossley, Land Use Clerk

Excused Members: Karen Golab, Eric Knapp

Public in Attendance: Ruth Houser, Warren Houser, Karen Anderson

Chairman Wyatt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Chairman Wyatt brought W. Sylvester to the board to sit in for E. Knapp.

Approve 5/8/17 and 8/14/17 meeting minutes: August 14, 2017 change '250' to '25' S. Panish moves to approve with correction. W. Sylvester seconds the motion. All in favor, minutes approved. 5/8/17 minutes tabled.

Public Input: Karen Anderson representing her parents, submitting a wetlands permit by notification for 177 Micah Terrace to replace a retaining wall, the wooden posts will be replaced by blocks at the same location and height done during low water. The board was in agreement that it was a good idea to replace the poles. Chairman Wyatt signed the permit.

Discuss next meeting date since 2nd Monday in October is Columbus Day: Board tentatively scheduled the meeting for Tuesday October 10th.

Review and approve 2018 budget: D. Crossley explained that there is a capital improvement project for a GIS System and suggested adding some money to the Professional services line. The board decided to add \$500 to the professional services, \$25 to supplies, and the board was in agreement to submit the budget with the additional \$525 money. S. Panish will present and defend the board.

Any updates regarding European Naiad: W. Sylvester updated the board that he had submitted the documents for a grant next year today, gave an update of people who they have hired to check what is left and what the hotspots of Naiad are. He gave a breakdown of the funds that have been spent this year.

Casey Road Land Protection Project Committee Update:

- *Invite MMRG to discuss Casey Rd. Budget to October meeting (and Conservation Action Plan):* Chairman Wyatt asked them to prepare a draft budget and they have offered to attend the October meeting to present the budget. MMRG is visiting regional conservation commissions to review the Conservation Action Plan and will review that also.
- *Prepare draft of warrant article for BOS approval to place a conservation easement on 41/69 (defunct subdivision):* S. Panish commented that maybe they should word it that they put it into conservation status rather than easement. Legal advice may be needed to decide if it could be added to the Casey Road Project, whether through lot line adjustment or voluntary merger. W. Sylvester commented that he would like to go on the monitoring to get a better idea of where the properties are. Chairman Wyatt told W. Sylvester she would put him in touch with Chris Kane.
- *Follow up with town regarding freeing up interest of abutting 11-acre town owned conservation property:* Chairman Wyatt believes they have Andy's attention to get this moving.
- *Looking for volunteers for stewardship and trails:* Charlie Ek cannot make that meeting but will continue to put feelers out to have volunteer stewards.

Discuss unresolved encroachments

- *Lyman Brook house encroachment. Review revised plan presented by Paul:* Warren and Ruth Houser attended the meeting to discuss the house encroachment. Warren Houser explained that this encroachment took them by surprise, they did not know about the issue. They brought pictures to show the commission to show the soil erosion, P. Blanc brought a set of plans to show the amended resolution of the encroachment, the new proposal leaves room for the home owners to put in a retaining wall and stairs down to help alleviate the erosion. P. Blanc explained that the area the Houser's would be given to conservation from their backyard would need to go back to its natural state. S. Panish explained to the Houser's how the Attorney General's office decides on the ratio of how much land is in the give and take of the conservation easement, there has to be a net gain for conservation purposes. The current proposal has the Houser's giving 4560 sq feet and gaining 2450 sq feet, discussed changing the amounts, P. Blanc would need to go back out to the site to review a different sized proportion, but keeps the same ratio of the 2.4. Chairman Wyatt explained once they have a decided plan, there will be a memorandum of understanding and discussion of costs. The board thanked the Houser's for attending the meeting.
- *Update regarding Lake/Johnson:* D. Crossley let the board know that both Lake and Johnson/Ross had reached out to the board and would like to work on the restoration plan. S. Panish has spoken with the Town Admin about getting a meeting together with legal counsel for advice. D. Crossley has put together a letter to send to them to let them know the commission still plans to meet with them, S. Panish is going to review the letter before it is sent out.

Potential Conservation Projects:

- *41/64 (42 acres) Letter sent to Emad Labadidi on June 9th, No response, decide next steps:* As there has been no response of interest from the land owner the board decided to table the request for now.
- *Discuss: Town owned properties voted by warrant article to be placed under conservation easement: Old Ski Area and Payne/Jones Brook Park. The MCC should also look for a conservation easement holder for town owned Spaulding Property.* Board noted that after the encroachment issues were resolved and Casey Road was taken care of they would need to put a focus on these projects.
- *Teneriffe Mt. Rd Property:* No comments,

Treasurer's Report: Board received legal bill, S. Panish moves to pay \$189 to the Mitchell Municipal Group from the legal fund. P. Blanc seconds the motion. All in favor motion approved.

Other Business: No other business.

Adjourn: W. Sylvester motions to adjourn, P. Blanc seconds the motion, all in favor meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Crossley
Land Use Clerk