

Milton Conservation Commission  
PO Box 310  
Milton, NH 03851  
October 14, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance: Karen Golab, Cynthia Wyatt, Charlie Karcher, Steve Baker, Steve Panish Also in attendance Dana Smith, Land Use Clerk

Missing Members: Eric Knapp

Public in Attendance: Selectman Andy Rawson, Phil Auger, Paul Blanc, Selectman Mike Beaulieu, Colleen Bessette, Rick Bessette

Chairman Wyatt called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

Public Hearing: Approval of a \$500 expenditure from Milton's Conservation Fund to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests to purchase a 150 acre addition to the Moose Mountains' 2300 acre Reservation in Middleton and Brookfield. C. Wyatt read into the record the public hearing notice. The donation has been endorsed by the Board of Selectmen.

Public Comment: Mike Beaulieu so far they need to raise \$174,000 do they have any idea how close they are to that goal. C. Wyatt said they are very close to their goal, within a few thousand dollars. Moose Mountain Regional Greenway and the Forest Society teamed up on this project and did a lot of fundraising this summer.

Close public hearing.

C. Wyatt appointed S. Baker to the board in place of E. Knapp as a voting member.

S. Panish moves to support the \$500 donation for the addition to the Moose Mountains Reservation Project from the General Conservation Fund, C. Karcher seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Joint Meeting with Milton Forest Committee: Milton Forest Committee members Colleen Bessette, Rick Bessette, Karen Golab and Mike Beaulieu attended the meeting to discuss easement matters with the Conservation Commission. C. Wyatt invited Phil Auger to come to the meeting to answer any questions that members might have, he is a respected person in regards to land conservation in the state of NH. She explained that he knows a lot about easements and presently works for South East Land Trust (SELT), with his past experience he can give an objective view point on what it takes to put the property the Forest Committee's been working with into conservation, informing the boards on the steps and associated costs will be. A big step to moving forward with this project is to understand those costs.

S. Panish explained the Stewardship Budget for the Nute Easement as an example for what costs every easement will have, but it is not the complete budget for the project. The meaning of the Stewardship Budget is that stewardship costs are the annual costs to the easement holding organization for doing monitoring, every year by law the land trust easement is required to do monitoring to make sure the terms of easement are being upheld. The organization will have to have a way to fund the annual costs every year. The way that this is typically done is investing the amount of money that would earn enough to cover the annual costs.

P. Auger explained to the boards how SELT takes on easements and how the costs are calculated. S. Panish commented it has not been discussed where the money would come from for the easement holder yet. K. Golab asked if it would be better to wait for the other properties that potentially might be going into conservation easements to do one easement at one time or do it in pieces. P. Auger responded that it would be cheaper to do all at once. M. Beaulieu replied that the land in question may not be available for conservation if the town decides to sell it at fair market value instead. He asked if the Forest Committee partners with Fish and Game, how that would change things. C. Bessette added that the committee had decided that they were at a standstill with who they were talking with. Their main focus was getting the conservation easement, the committee is leaning more towards Moose Mountain than Fish and Game. P.

Auger asked if Fish and Game had expressed an interest in being an easement holder. Rick Bessette said that they have.

The Conservation Commission and Forest Committee continued discussion on what they would like to do with the land in regards to finding an easement holder.

C. Wyatt explained that once a conservation easement is voted on by the town, there will be some fundraising to be done, usually the land trust will go to the Conservation Commission to see how much they can donate, and then they would go to the town's people with fundraising to make up the rest. S. Panish disagrees and thinks they should do the outreach prior to putting the easement on the property and then there is a reason to ask for the money. P. Auger recommends they go to see what other towns are doing with their land, to see how they have managed their town land.

C. Wyatt asked P. Auger how he would advise them to proceed, the boards have the language for a warrant article that has been approved by the NH Municipal Association. P. Auger advised them to get going on the warrant article, contact SELT to have them take a look at the land. C. Wyatt said once we've had the easement voted on, we should have more public outreach. P. Auger told the boards that if after the easement is on the land they could amend the easement to add more land to it. A. Rawson asked how many acres it is they are working with. C. Wyatt said that this parcel is 74 acres.

C. Wyatt read to the boards the proposed warrant article. C. Karcher thinks it should say that it is recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds.

K. Golab motions to approve sending to the Board of Selectmen the warrant article as stated by the Chairman C. Wyatt and approved by the NH Municipal Association, seconded by C. Karcher. All in favor, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2015 regular meeting minutes, Change 'Lymen' to 'Lyman' C. Karcher moves to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by S. Panish, all in favor. September 14, 2015 minutes approved.

Master Plan Update: C. Wyatt asked D. Smith how the planning board was doing with reviewing the groundwater update. D. Smith said the questions that Bob Bourdeau had for Kyle Plimental had been resolved on his own. The groundwater update will be added to the Planning Board agenda for their approval. D. Smith will let the board know if the Planning Board would like them to attend the meeting to answer any questions they may have.

Kyle Plimental was not able to finish his proposal for updating the Natural Resource Chapter of the Master Plan and did not make it to the meeting.

E. Knapp was not present at the meeting in order to discuss integration of the survey results with the Natural Resource chapter.

Follow up designating times to work on both off site and on site files: Tabled

CE Encroachments: Tournas and Town of Milton: Norway plains update, C. Karcher the lot line adjustment was approved by the Planning Board at their meeting last week. He has staked the corners and the mylar will be signed and recorded by done next week. Board of Selectmen waived the \$150 application fee for the board.

Lyman Brook home encroachment: the board still has not heard from Town Attorney Sessler on the title search. C. Karcher thinks that once the documents have been approved by Town Attorney and Attorney General it has to go back before the Planning Board, to show them that the board is changing the easement.

Potential Conservation Projects: Teneriffe Mt. Rd property the board would like to keep an eye on this property.

Treasurer's Report: S. Panish does not have a financial report because he does not have a computer yet, he should have one next week.

S. Panish moves to pay \$148.00 to Sessler from the legal defense account, C. Karcher seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Budget: S. Panish reported the Board of Selectmen cut the legal defense line and the contract services, he passed out a copy of the updated budget that is going to the Budget Committee next week. The new budget reads \$300 for training, \$2,500 for legal defense, \$1,700 for professional services, \$1,000 for printing, \$500 for postage, \$600 for membership/organizational dues, making the budget a total of \$6,600.

Other Business: Paul Blanc, came to the meeting with interest in becoming a board member, he will submit a letter of interest to the Town Administrator and then will go to the Board of Selectmen for their approval.

The board received an information letter from DES for private well owners.

The board received and reviewed pamphlet from University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Forest Laws for Municipal Officials.

The board received a letter from David Price about the response to the tire complaint on Bolan Road.

The board received a permit by notification for a retaining wall work for 109 Micah Terrace. C. Wyatt signed off on the permit.

S. Panish moves to accept C. Karcher's resignation with extreme regret, S. Baker seconds with regret. All in favor, resignation accepted.

S. Baker reported to the board that the lake has European Naiad an invasive aquatic plant, it is reported to be mostly on the Maine side. It has not been decided what plan of action will be taken. The problem is that Maine and NH differ on how to treat the plant issue.

C. Karcher motions to adjourn, S. Panish seconds the motion, all in favor. Meeting ended at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Smith  
Land Use Clerk