

MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PO BOX 310
MILTON, NH 03851
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2014

Attending: Tom Gray, Cynthia Wyatt, Charlie Karcher, David Levin, Barbara Berry, Steve Panish

Public: Mike Beaulieu, John Katwick, Eric Knapp, Derek Hurn, Gail Pennell

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Cynthia

No Public Comment

Change of Zoning for potential C&D residual landfill – Cyn read a statement from NH Municipal Assn concerning her potential conflict as an abutter, which stated that she doesn't need to recuse herself on this issue since the CC is an advisory commission without legislative authority. Cyn thus decided to participate in the discussion but not vote. Cyn says she believes that any zoning change must be guided by the Town's Master Plan. Toward that end she read the following: 674:2 Master Plan; Purpose and Description.

I. The purpose of the master plan is to set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, to aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection.

II. The master plan shall be a set of statements and land use and development principles for the municipality with such accompanying maps, diagrams, charts and descriptions as to give legal standing to the implementation of ordinances and other measures of the planning board.

Tom thinks that since the master plan is advisory, it does not preclude a zoning change. Cyn feels strongly that the proposed project would severely devalue the properties of, and likely "destroy the lives" of those residents who abut or live in proximity to the proposed landfill site. Tom says the town is financially dying. Eric Knapp asks why the town has not explored other sources of money. Tom stated that he has been trying during his ten years as a Select Board member to find business sources of income for the town. Steve notes that we need to make decisions based on knowledge, not emotion. Charlie stated he is not in favor of ReEnergy coming to Milton and getting a permit to fill the wetlands will be an obstacle to the ReEnergy plan. Eric Knapp asks why there has been negotiation in a private meeting. Tom says there have been no negotiation and meetings were not private. Eric Knapp states he wants a legal process to be followed. Steve agrees and states that the timeline to put an article on the warrant for 2015 seems too rushed.

David acknowledged that Tom probably has the best understanding of the dire state of the town's finances, but said that the potential for harm needs to be weighed against that for good and in this case there is too much potential for harm. Makes a motion that the CC go on record to encourage a review and update of the Master Plan including public forums, prior to considering zoning changes that would allow landfills in the town. Charlie seconds, all are in favor except Tom and Cyn who abstain.

The public was invited to speak the issue. John Katwick says he is neutral and we need someone to provide advice as to what such a landfill would mean to Milton. He notes that he was directly negatively impacted by a previous zoning change that did not receive public scrutiny.

Workshop Sept 25 to promote tourism in the area. Moderated by Charlie French. Gail Pennell notes that there used to be a successful restaurant at exit 18.

August Minutes – needs a date in the header. Moved for approval with that change by David, seconded by Charlie, all in favor.

Increasing size of CC from 5 to 7 – Cyn suggests we wait to be sure we will be able to support that number.

CC Files – David and Charlie will get together in October and move / organize the files.

Ray's Marina – West side – looks positive to be developed into small shops, a Dunkin Donuts with drive through is likely to go into the existing building and possibly a bank on the north end. East Side – no news.

Easement Encroachments – Berry Survey thinks Tournas doesn't own the land he wanted to use for the exchange of the shed area. Tabled.

Lyman Brook – 20 Rookery Rd has potential purchaser (Mike Sim) who wants to know how the town wishes to resolve the issue, Steve will update him. Nothing yet from AG's office.

New potential CC Member – Charlie introduces Derek Hurn, who bought Charlie's house. Derek said he would likely send a letter of interest to the Select Board.

Town Forest project on Casey Rd. So far only 3 applicants for the committee, we need more. MMRG can't do the budget for a Conservation Easement in time for a warrant article. CC agrees that we can wait another year.

Potential new Conservation properties – Tabled.

Financial Report – no report, delayed due to Labor Day holiday. We received \$5605 from LUCT collected in July 2014.

Budget request from Kim. We need an updated cost for testing by TPPA. Bob Myrick is the TPPA contact person. Keep same amount for organization memberships. \$500 for education/outreach. David will do a tentative budget, circulate, and get to Liz.

9.3.14 MCC

Review Master Plan NRI for Gerry Coogan – We will all read the old plan. Steve notes he is displeased that the CC is only being asked to provide input for the NRI and not the vision section.

Submitted by Steve Panish, acting as secretary.