

## Milton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes, 7/13/2020

Attending: Steve Panish acting secretary, Karen Golab, Cynthia Wyatt, Chair, Wayne Sylvester, Bob Weiss, Deb McCormack (running Zoom)

Meeting open via Zoom 5:45PM

- 1) Steve verifies that the Current/Frisselle Easement requires the land owner to keep the 10-acre hay field mowed yearly, and in the event that is not carried out, the CC is required to have it mowed, but at the landowners expense. Also notes that he has some CC folders which may be original easement docs, not copies.
- 2) Ashley didn't send 6/16 minutes so nothing to review or approve
- 3) Nicole Hunter (not present) has proposed an upgrade of Waumbeck Park in Milton Mills. CC agrees we can provide the \$250 dedicated to making descriptive signs (plaques) as part of our educational mission. Noted that the planned "eradication" of poison ivy by pulling will not be effective. Eradication will require herbicides. Also noted PI is not an invasive plant, it is noxious, but native.
- 4) C. Wyatt will serve another year as chair, BW moves, WS seconds, all in favor (AIF).
- 5) Housekeeping. Meetings are to be held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 5:30PM. Officers are to include a Treasurer. SP is to continue as Treasurer. Moved by KG, seconded BW, AIF.
- 6) No public input.
- 7) Chris Kane monitoring. Last week in July proposed, this is a problem because Ashley is gone and the CC doesn't have access to the land us secretary's files which record (somewhere) the names and addresses of the easement landowners, or the mailing/stamping method. It would be time-consuming to have to recreate these lists. Virginia has written a letter to the landowners which will need to be modified with the date of the monitoring. The CC has previously requested that the landowners be notified prior to monitoring so they may participate, but the logistics have never worked out. Cyn will send a list to Ernie and ask how to get the notices out.
- 8) CC met (Zoom) with PB concerning problems with old town-held easements and the problems of small easements (prone to violations which are difficult and expensive to resolve) and open-space subdivision easements (which usually are created from undevelopable land and only benefit the developer, and which are generally dependent on a homeowner's association which is never formed, funded, or active.) CC recommends that town not hold easements, instead, a land trust should hold any easements, and the land trust is unlikely to allow unenforceable easements that are likely to be problematic. The PB had a proposed subdivision on 109 which Bruce Woodruff was proposing to include easements on the back of the lots against the

Salmon Falls headwaters, this was an example of small easements that would likely be difficult. BW proposed a meeting with the CC to discuss this but withdrew the proposal. SP noted that he didn't have the presence of mind to suggest a meeting would have been OK to discuss some form of conservation for this land, which is valuable, but problematic.

- 9) Jones Brook Park. J. Katwick has made a presentation concerning renovation of the park to the BOS, as meeting will be planned.
- 10) Lot on Rt. 75 addition to Casey Rd. easement-in-progress. Site walk may happen, Andy Ralston offered to lead. Next step for the easement is to send to Ernie for review.
- 11) Three Ponds educational meeting will be discussed by TPPA. They didn't want to do a Zoom meeting.
- 12) Milton Zoning Ordinance. Bruce has not gotten back to SP about this.
- 13) Liberty Circle – CC decides it is too much time and expense to continue trying to get landowner permission to convert this small easement to town control. Landowners have not been responsive.
- 14) No financial report. The “automatic” report MacKenzie was setting up from the bank never happened.
- 15) PREP -no notes. Does anyone remember what was said?
- 16) E. Nyad removal. WS reports suction harvesting will begin 7/20. Herbicide treatment over 3 acres will begin in early August. Discussion of Spaulding Pond. It is infested with milfoil and E. Nyad. Wayne has offered technical help to anyone living there who wants to form a lake association, but TPPA is overburdened as it is and will not take on an additional lake in view of the lack of participation by residents of the Spaulding Pond.
- 17) Adjourned 7PM, moved KG, seconded BW.