

Town of Milton
424 White Mtn Highway
Milton NH, 03851



Conservation Commission
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8/19/20
Meeting Minutes
5:30PM

Present Members: Cynthia Wyatt, Steve Panish, Wayne Sylvester, Karen Golab, Debra McCormick, Robert Weiss, Virginia Long

Absent Members: (All Members of the Board were present)

Staff Present: Julius Peel (Land Use and Administrative Assistant)

Notice of Electronic Meeting:

Notice is hereby given in accordance with RSA 676:5 & 676:7 and the NH Governor's Emergency Order #23 that the **Milton Conservation Commission** will hold their meeting on August 10, 2020 remotely, using the Zoom web-based platform where members will not be physically present at one meeting location. All discussion must be audible for citizens viewing or listening to the meeting through Zoom services (computer or phone).

Computer: to participate or listen using a computer to the live meeting on August 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM go this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82142685794?pwd=M2s3OGY5aktkQlB0RFFReHNsSGdRQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 6173 3701

Passcode: 7bazPS

One tap mobile

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 861 6173 3701#

Passcode: 866217

When you click on the link, you will see a message that this is Deborah McCormack's Personal Meeting Room, since we are using Deb's Zoom business account. Please mute your microphone while others are speaking to reduce unwanted background noise or feedback and wait until the Chair call on you to speak. To facilitate audible discussion, we will go around the room for each

guest, committee member or member of the public comments for each agenda item and before any vote; votes will be taken by roll call. If you want to interject a comment out of turn, please stay mute but raise or wave your hand to get the attention of the Chair to be called on to speak.

Phone: To participate or listen by phone to the live meeting on Tuesday, 8/10/2020 at 5:30 PM, dial the NYC toll number: 1 (646) 556-8656. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 882 6997 6379#
Password: 618143

If the meeting has not yet started, Press # to wait; when prompted, enter the password followed by the pound sign: 051867#

Please listen to the Zoom meeting to ascertain when to “raise your hand” to speak. There will be public comment before any vote. When you wish to speak, press*(star)9 on your phone dial pad to “raise your hand” in the meeting. To toggle between mute and unmute, press *(star) 6 on your phone dial pad. If any member of the public has repeated problems, the meeting will be discontinued.

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson Cynthia Wyatt called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Virginia Long and Steve Panish, abutters to the property that will be discussed next, recuse themselves temporarily from their seated positions to act as members of the public.

II. New Business:

Presentation by Phil Auger representing Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) and Duane Hyde representing Southeast Land Trust (SELT)

Phil opens the meeting by discussing the potential land conservation project on Teneriffe Mt. Rd. Phil defines this area as tax map 26/8 consisting of 143.02-acres, tax map 31/9 consisting of 93.89-acres and tax map 31/10 consisting of 5.15-acres. In total he describes a conservation project acreage 242.06. Phil explains to the board that the land in discussion is currently abutted by quite a few different properties, most of which are already conservation land. Phil notes that the project has already been appraised for its value and that one of the reasons they are before the board is that NHDES is requiring letters of support from the community. The application is due at the end of August so receiving the letter as quickly as possible is an essential to the success of the project. Phil turns to Duane and asks him if he has anything else to add. Duane explains that Phil covered most of the essentials of the project but thought it would be important to add that the area is in a planned coastal conservation region. Jillian Eldridge, who also joined to present on the project's behalf, briefly closed by explaining the current structure of the program and its potential use.

Karen Golab starts questions by asking who would oversee maintaining the property once the board presents the letter of support. Phil answers by saying that the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways will be overseeing the care of the property, this would include trails and other potential projects. Deborah McCormick asks if snow machines will be allowed on the property. Phil answers saying that as of right now he is not sure if they will fully limit snow machines, he does know that there are plans to limit summer recreational vehicles like four wheelers because of the permanent damage that has been done to the trails. Cynthia Wyatt asks what kind of florals and fauna might be living on the property and if anything, extra will be done to protect them. Phil answers that the typical deer, Moose, and smaller mammals that are common around NH will most likely be found here, but states that the group has yet to complete a test on the topic. Duane does mention that the area has a relatively rare form of Chestnut Oak Tree that is more commonly found more southward. Along with this Duane points out that the Small World Pogonia may also be found in the area.

Cynthia tells the board that she had a draft letter of support sent to them. She reads the letter aloud so that all attendees that were unable to review the letter beforehand can listen. After minor editing to the letter, the board agrees that they will give the letter of support to Phil through a motion.

Karen Golab motions to send the letter of support, with edits, to the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Association, seconded by Wayne Sylvester. The vote is 5/2 with Steve Panish and Virginia Long abstaining. The Motion passes approving the expenditure.

After receiving the letter of support, Phil explains that the overall cost of the project is roughly \$620,000 with the purchase of the lot being \$390,000. To complete the project, they are asking that the board please donate \$20,000 to the organization. The board agrees that they will discuss this donation further and get back to them with an answer. Phil, Duane, and Jillian all exit the call as the board begins to discuss potentially financing the project. Steve and Cynthia explain that the conservation fund isn't currently gaining funds, but note that the organization has roughly 100,000 saved up for potential projects. Steve notes that this money is in a private fund not directly by the taxpayers of the town, thus this money is within their legal parameters to use. Cynthia explains that in the commissions by-laws they must present these purchases to the select board before completing them, it does not mean they need the boards support though. Wayne asks the board if there have been any potential projects in the nearby future and Steve explains that projects like these do not come around often. The board agrees that they will look to support this project financially, but they will present this before the select board before finalizing anything.

Shoreland Permit Application

Virginia Long explains to the board that the Shoreland Permit Application that the commission received notice from the state about has a deadline, so the board must review the application before their next meeting if they see any problems with it. The board begins to review the application and Virginia points out that this change being done on the property mentioned will create additional permeable ground, creating a healthier shoreline. Virginia justifies supporting this Shoreland Permit because of this positive change to the heavily fronted shoreline. Wayne brings up a point about the steps leading down to the beach area. His concern is the amount of runoff that will be entering the beach from the location and wants more information about this from DES. The board agrees that Wayne would be the best person on the board to create a letter to DES about this topic as he is the most knowledgeable about it.

III. Adjournment:

Karen Golab motions to adjourn, Seconded by Robert Weiss. The vote is approved unanimously. The Motion passes adjourning the meeting.