

**Town of Milton**  
424 White Mtn Highway  
Milton NH, 03851



**Conservation Commission**  
PO Box 310  
(p)603-652-4501  
(f)603-652-4120

6/14/21  
Meeting Minutes  
5:30PM

**Present Members:** Steve Panish, Virginia Long, Karen Golab, Deborah McCormack, Robert Weiss, Wayne Sylvester

**Absent Members:** Cynthia Wyatt

**Staff Present:** Julius Peel, Land Use Department

**Members of the Public:**

### **Special Meeting Notice – Electronic**

#### **1. 5:30PM – CONVENE MEETING**

#### **2. Ascertain who is present.**

Karen Golab noted that Cynthia Wyatt has requested a leave of absence. Under article IV, section B, Karen Golab will be active chair until Cynthia returns. K. Golab appointed Virginia Long as a member of the board for the meeting tonight to fill in the empty commissioner seat. The Commission discussed the topic and confirmed the members of the commission.

The Commission does a final roll call.

#### **3. Review and approval May 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Deb McCormack noted a typo on line 3, update instead of updated. V. Long noted the changes that she had sent to Julius Peel prior to the meeting.

Virginia long motioned to approve the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with changes. Wayne Seconds. The vote is unanimous approve the meeting minutes of my 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Steve Panish arrived at 5:36PM.

#### **4. Review and discuss Jones Brook project**

V. Long and S. Panish explained that they had visited the Jones Brook site and took pictures of the location. K. Golab wanted to review those photos and present

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their findings to the commission to determine how they should continue with the property.

V. Long introduced to the commission a site map of the location and explained to the board the route they had taken around the property. She explained the difficulty of traversing the property and clarified that the walk was over an hour long. S. Panish explained to the board the difficulty was equitable to traversing a young forest with plenty of poison ivy. After the two described the difficulty traversing the location and the extent of the growth on the property, the commission reviewed the photos that were taken. S. Panish explained that it would take an extensive amount of work to clean up the excess growth and turn the entire parcel into a walkable trail for low impact recreation. He clarified that this would be essentially starting a project from scratch and would be a large task for the commission to do alone. He noted that there were signs of people visiting the location but did not know what they were doing at the site. The commission noted strong conservation efforts would be necessary but expressed that the property did have plenty of natural incentives that may draw members of the community like hiking and fishing.

S. Panish explained that the history of the location is essential to understanding how the lot looks. He noted that he remembers a large history of invasive species on the lot but was unable to find any evidence while he was there. He mentioned the previous excavation site that was on the property and explained that at one point the Strafford County had preserved this location.

W. Sylvester asked who owned the parcel of land across the roadway. V. Long noted that Ari Goldenberg was the owner across the roadway and was attempting to start an excavation permit for the site.

W. Sylvester read a message that was sent to him from Les Elder regarding signage at the location.

K. Golab asked the commissioners to explain their opinion about the property and how they should proceed with maintaining it.

B. Weiss explained that he thinks that this location has too much work for the commission to do alone. He explained that he thinks that the site walk was not enough to show the extensive amount of work on the property. He asked for a

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map so that he could visit the location again and Virginia noted that she can send the map electronically to the commissioners.

W. Sylvester said that signs should be placed on the lot and noted that this location is apart of a bigger project. He explained that at some point in time the six of them cannot preserve every location in the town of Milton. If he was ranking the locations, Casey should be first, Teneriffe should be second and Jones Brook should be third. V. Long noted that the Teneriffe mountain project mentioned previously is owned by MMRG and it is their responsibility to review.

K. Golab recommended that the commission propose to the board of selectman a committee that would be responsible for maintaining the location. She noted the importance of having the direct line to the board of selectman to continue this project.

D. McCormack explained that she agreed with the commission so far but noted that the new committee would want to start by tackling the pond first as it is a smaller section of the whole project.

S. Panish explained that the goal of this location would be an easy access fishing location. He thinks that this would boost the popularity of the location for the community. He thinks that they should reach out to the volunteers that John had in mind to complete this project. He thinks the only issue is enforcing rules, so that this location is preserved and not trashed. He noted the increased work and that the commission does not have enough money to maintain this property with their current budget. He explained that the location could be an expensive and would require a major cleanup project just to reach the fishing locations.

V. Long explained that the location, in addition to fishing, might be a large enough location for a dog walking site. The commission discussed the size of the lot and noted that if they are just using the less overgrown section of the property then the distance would be roughly half a mile and might not be suitable for just a trailhead for dogs. She explained that the location also had a large number of birds for potential bird watching. She also noted that a sign stating the location is something that should be completed.

K. Golab explained that the location could be a five-year project for a committee that presents its budget to the board of selectman.

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The commission spoke about the topic and discussed the opportunity of establishing separate committee. They decided that reaching out to the volunteers should be the start. They commission noted that they are not sure how enthusiastic all the volunteers are to dedicate to this location. W. Sylvester noted that the Board of Selectman will most likely want to see the CC oversee the project other than a fully independent location.

The commission noted some other volunteers that might be interested in helping at the location. They stated that the commission would be responsible with starting the committee if they begin the process of reaching out to the individuals. The commission agreed that they would create a letter and bring this information to the board of selectman to complete prior to the budget cycle beginning.

**5. Updates on Trout Unlimited project**

V. Long noted that there were no updates on this project.

**6. Follow Up on MCC role for helping meet MS4 mandates.**

Julius Peel explained that MS4 Is being overseen by the Board of Selectman and Bruce. V. Long noted the lack of information on the website. J. Peel explained that this is an age-old project that many communities are struggling to educate about.

**7. Read letter to DES regarding Wetlands Permit on Northeast Pond Rd. into record**

K. Golab read aloud the letter written by the commission and submitted to DES representative. \*This can be found attached to the previous meeting minutes\*

**8. Update on 3.04-acre parcel of town owned land referenced by tax/lot 41/81**

Notes that they are currently in a waiting game for the property. V. Long noted that during a conversation with Chris Regarding the select board, in this conversation he noted that the board had expressed that they did not want to place the location into conservation. Chris explained that the Selectboard would not approve this as a warrant article so the location would have to be placed as a citizen article. Karen noted that the commission voted that they would not go ahead with a citizen warrant article at the previous meeting.

**9. Update on educational outreach committee**

No official update.

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**10. Concern about infestation by John Katwick**

K. Golab noted that there should be some education about this topic and asked Virginia Long to bring this to the education sub-committee.

**11. Casey Rd update**

V. Long explained that they had discussed the outline of the celebration.

**12. Financial report review**

S. Panish explained that the commission received the financial report over the weekend. In this he noted that nothing has changed except interest on the conservation fund. He noted the TPPA for the video project fee.

**13. Wetland Permit review, if applicable**

K. Golab and the commission reviewed the application.

The commission noted that D. McCormack would be sitting in for Steve Panish as he is currently not sworn in.

Wayne motions to approve this Wetlands Permit as submitted. Bob seconds. All in favor. The motion passes approving the application.

**14. Shorelands Protection Permit review, if applicable**

\*None\*

**15. Other business as may come before the MCC.**

W. Sylvester explained that he went to the Lebanon Planning board committee. Here he noted that the conference room was overflowing. W. Sylvester explained that the application that came before the board was for a major storage unit that would house boats for the lake. He explained that the TPPA are concerned about the increased boat traffic. V. Long noted that there was no discussion of regional impact and thinks that the commission might want to formulate a letter of concern for the board. The commission decided that the MCC of Milton would want to be cautious about writing letters of concern for other communities without reaching out to the select board first.

W. Sylvester explained that Jen King sent a message to him asking about the quality of the water around her house when she noticed a strange discoloration. W. Sylvester explained that Cyano-bacteria, blue algae, can be infectious/toxic, but without testing they are unsure if this is what Jen King had noticed. To figure

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out if this is the case, samples went out to UNH today for a toxicity report and notification was submitted to DES and DEP.

Karen Golab noted that the Planning Board will be doing some rezoning on route 125. Julius explained that the planning board would be meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> to review the community to determine the most important location to rezone.

V. Long explained that the by-laws state that the commission can have 5 members and suggests that the commission might want to increase that number to 7. The Commission discussed this and explained that they would review the RSA's and revisit this at the next meeting.

**16. Public Comment**

\*No public comment\*

**17. Next meeting proposed: Monday, July12, 2021. 6PM-7:30**

**18. Adjournment**

Virginia Long motioned to adjourn. Karen Golab seconded. The vote is unanimous. The motion passes adjourning the meeting.