

Notes from the Milton CC Casey Road Land Protection Sub-committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Emma Ramsey Center

Present: Cynthia Wyatt, Karen Golab, Wayne Sylvester, and Virginia Long

(Andy Rawson was unable to attend)

Guests: Justin Bellen (committee-member-to-be, but needs to be sworn in to serve on MCC)

Approx. 6:35 pm start meeting

Karen emphasized that this is a special meeting called to discuss points to present to the BOS when we meet with them on 10/2 (so we do not have to conduct regular business of approving minutes etc)

Karen asked the question of everyone that we want to address at upcoming BOS meeting: "Why should the 5-acre defunct subdivision lot be conserved?" Karen had prepared a list of reasons and we discussed those, including steep slopes that drain into Lyman Brook, enlarging the conserved property, ease of monitoring, liability of town in owning it if it's not sold. Karen asked Cynthia to present these reasons to the BOS. Virginia said she will ask Patti (Exec Director of MMRG) if she has any suggestions to strengthen our case, since MMRG has requested that we include this additional 5-acre property in the easement. Virginia asked if the 5 acres has any particular educational value and Wayne replied probably not.

Cynthia reported that the town attorney said we should ask for the subdivision to be revoked on the lot and then do a lot-line adjustment to merge it with the 73 acre property (the Casey Rd parcel that we are trying to conserve). This action would need to be done by the Planning Board but we will ask for support from the BOS first. Virginia suggested we go to the BOS meeting ready to listen to their opinions, not with our minds rigidly made up, in case the BOS have something different they want to suggest. Wayne suggested that we propose the BOD come look at the property again, to assess for themselves the value of it, for re-sale versus for conservation.

Virginia asked what needs to be done in order for the town to be able to donate the 11-acre easement to MMRG, since that easement was donated to the town. Cynthia said she would ask the same attorney that advised her previously.

We discussed openings on the MCC and how to make Justin an official member. Cynthia said she would ask Dana to send a letter to Eric Knapp that he can use to resign so his place can be opened up for Wayne and Justin can apply to be an alternate (although in fact, 3 alternates are allowed, currently Wayne and Virginia are alternates). Justin will send letter to BOS stating he would like to serve.

Justin reported on the visit to the property to assess removal of the shacks. Justin, Wayne, Andy and members of Milton Fire and Rescue went on Wed, Sept 27 (??). The buildings are burnable and the plan is to take down the structures and burn them on Sat Oct 7. Pat from Milton Buildings and Roads will supply a dumpster. Cynthia will lend the Branch Hill farm tractor with Bob Wagner driving it. The MCC conservation fund will be used to pay for disposal of anything that can't be burned. Milton Fire and

Rescue will carry it out as a training exercise, clear area, lay down hose, pre-planning for safety, etc. and take photos for the record, which could also be useful for a history of the easement project.

Wayne reported that he thinks the property is beautiful with great educational potential and spoke enthusiastically about school outdoor recreational use, such as snowshoeing, as well.

Several people present reported about the meeting with the School Board , who were very enthusiastic about the project, but wanted 2 things: 1)'facilities' (toilets) and 2) handicapped accessibility. Karen commented we may need to slow down on the educational front and not take on too much. Virginia commented that we need to think ahead about the easement restrictions regarding those aspects.

Virginia said she will follow up with the Milton School Administrative Committee about next steps.

Karen suggested we plan on regular meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm, but to plan the Town walk, we should meet sooner in October. All present agreed on Oct 12.

8:02 pm adjourned

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Virginia