

**Milton Casey Road Land Protection Committee**

sub-committee of the **Milton Conservation Commission**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Thursday, June 11, 2020 @ 5:30 P.M.**

Present: Virginia Long, Karen Golab, Robert Weiss, Cynthia Wyatt, Wayne Sylvester\* and Deb McCormack (\*Wayne left meeting briefly from 6:40-6:45pm and again at 6:52pm)

MMRG Guests: Nicole Csiszer, MMRG Board Chair and Interim Executive Director and Charlie Bridges, MMRG Land and Stewardship Committee (joined meeting at 6:00pm)

No members of the public attended.

5:32pm Virginia called meeting to order.

The first paragraph of the agenda was read and the meeting goal was to determine (by 6pm) the easement language for public access. Also clarified that Cynthia, Wayne and Deb have not yet been sworn in to renew their appointments, so are not able to vote.

**Review of the Conservation Easement**

1. Use Limitations/Restrictions:
   1. Includes snowmobiles. Deb-trails are not long enough for snowmobiles. Karen-emergency use only. Cynthia agrees, should put under rights reserved.
   2. Virginia –Town can post against hunting. Will have to make exception under motorized vehicles.
   3. Wayne-Can only cross on bridges in future.
   4. Virginia-change wording from “electronic” to “electric” powered bicycles to electric powered bicycles.
   5. Deb-prefers Option 2 wording for language for public access as it is more concise and more accurate as to limitations versus reserved rights. All in favor of Option 2.
   6. Roadwork necessary should be described NRCS.
   7. Virginia-No motorized vehicles, wants to make exception for snowmobiles for the town to allow or not allow (for search and rescue), but not automatically disallowed. Cynthia-Earlier version had it but it didn’t carry over. Will add as reserved right. All agree.
   8. Purpose of easement saying non-wheeled. Potential conflict of wheeled vehicles. Remove non-wheeled from purposes. Option 2 retains right to prohibit wheeled. Pedestrian implies non-wheeled. Virginia-Town wants to allow bicycles. Charlie-Keep it for low impact – delete non-wheeled, non-motorized and non-pedestrian.

1. Survey/Acreage:
   1. Acreage should show as 11.34A not 11A.
   2. Virginia-Town does need to see survey with a copy of the easement deed.
   3. Charlie -the meets and bounds within an easement sometimes do not include the entire property.
   4. Virginia-BDR still shows 2 separate parcels. They were merged a couple of years ago, so needs to be corrected.
   5. Can easily add 3.04 Acre Parcel to easement if easement language is the same.
   6. Virginia-Jon agrees to lead site walk, maybe June 27th or July 1st. Will ask BOS, public invited, wear masks. Will let us know.
   7. Nicole-no issue with sharing survey and can merge parcels.
   8. Karen-Baseline was done before 2 parcels were merged.
   9. Virginia-Did town get deed modified? Karen-Yes. Virginia-Town is supposed to review and accept baseline and survey.
   10. Deb-Is a one year old baseline a problem? Virginia-John Nute will walk again and take new photos, including driveways over conservation land.
   11. Tom Masland (MMRG Attorney) wants to see surveyor language and ROW paragraph. Steve Perron.
2. Extraction of Minerals:
   1. Does extraction of minerals require grantee consent? Written notice?
   2. Why were these paragraphs deleted? Cynthia – They were in there for a specific pit problem, not typical or necessary. If you remove some wording things can get missed. Read the two conditions for extraction.
   3. Virginia-Concerned there is no approval process in the easement. Charlie -Should be described in the Management Plan. Could add a statement that would identify the extent of extraction activity and could be approved.
   4. Certification as in forestry. MMRG needs a copy of the plan. Not removal or extraction, but moving material around.
   5. Virginia-Moving materials might be done by volunteers for bridgework. Notify MMRG for review. Charlie - Reviewing a plan and approving could be done. All agree.
3. Parking Area/Driveways:
   1. Parking area was expanded for school buses.
   2. Nicole-Addendum will include woods road weaves off an on property.
   3. Charlie -Use limitation on page 6 iii. Residential driveways have ROW. In future they could put driveway over ROW. Take out.
   4. Virginia – One partly used and one not being used. One location is long extension to Rte. 75. Other on extension to Casey Road next to one of the house lots is being used.
   5. Cynthia-Condition page 8 – No future ROW.
   6. Virginia-Easement discusses paving or creation of parking lot – wants exclusion of paving ROW.
   7. Page 6B – Total impervious surface coverage not to include ROW of record. Charlie agreed-makes sense.
4. Title Search/Town Approvals:
   1. Nicole-Title search is in the works.
   2. Virginia-Town did title search but not back far enough to include ROW.
   3. Charlie - If soon, we could hold off, but if many months, let’s move forward. Virginia-The only change will be in the survey and meets and bounds.
   4. Virginia-Does it have to go to the town, BOS 2 public meetings (consecutive) and a walkthrough? Maybe vote in August the earliest.
   5. Committee will have to meet to review new draft. Is next step to town attorney and BOS?
   6. Will let Charlie know when site walk is scheduled.
   7. They might choose to auction the 3A parcel.
5. Guests Nicole and Charlie left at 6:55pm. Nicole was happy with the discussion and looks forward to the first event. Virginia has enough information to present at end of agenda.
6. **Review of March 4, 2020 minutes:**
   1. Karen moved to approve. Cynthia seconded. All in favor and approved.
7. **Beaver Dam Trail:**
   1. Town Atty. Keriann Roman said it needs to be approved by Conservation Commission and might need permits or certification from someone knowledgeable. Needs approval by all 6 landowners. Would have to research. (Walter Mitchell sent info to Keriann)
   2. Peter Goodwin’s map shows trail to beaver pond.
   3. Near street, remove vegetation marked to be cut.
   4. Town has 5/11s share and individual landowners 6/11’ share. How many votes does town get?
   5. Cynthia-Is it worth it to create a trail. Atty. might charge up to 2 hours $420.
   6. Virginia-Letters about this were never sent.
   7. Probably not worth it as a path has already been unofficially slightly worn.
8. **Other Business – MMRG Explorers Club**
   1. MMRG’s new Explorers Club is planning a leaf/tree ID event. They want to hang laminated leaf ID tags (fastened with zipties) on the kiosk all summer. These will be used by walkers and then returned to the kiosk.
   2. Ernie is not sure if we have authority to approve.
   3. Karen-Thinks town needs to approve published events for public. BOS should be notified. Virginia-Has led bird walks with no approval as it is for public use. No commercial uses and no fund raisers. Cant’ tell people you can’t bring a group. Should address in easement for limiting size of group, but can’t limit which group. Karen-supports.
   4. Deb-Mentioned winter carnival snowshoeing event and dog walk, but that was acceptable as it was a town planned event. What about school bus groups?
   5. Bob-How can we monitor it? Virginia-What if neighbor calls police? Cynthia-don’t expect large groups in the new future. Virginia-Ask Charlie about limiting size of groups. Karen-Ask Charlie what other towns do. MMRG has some large events. When committee disbands, need rules, maybe tactfully written note on kiosk. Virginia-Ask BOS if there are any other clauses they recommend about large groups/out-of –town groups.
   6. Cynthia-Nothing is posted on her land. She would hope, as a courtesy, people would ask for permission for groups over 50.
   7. Cynthia-Motion to advise to BOS through Ernie that we support this do-it-yourself , MMRG initiative to invite families for self led tree ID activity. To enjoy the outdoors in a safe place. Suggested letter to state: To encourage families to get outside and enjoy during pandemic. Karen seconded and all in favor.
   8. Danielle is gone and there is no replacement yet.
   9. Add advisory statement to BOS agenda items, but don’t have to attend.
   10. Karen-supports idea but we need to ask BOS for this and future events.
   11. Ask Charlie how to proceed to limit groups (i.e. pandemic)…reserve a right? Karen-Need to follow government issued orders.
9. **Other Business – Maps/Trails**
   1. Trailhead signs & map for kiosk.
   2. Virginia-Should postpone map discussion. Cynthia- Wants to see maps. Karen- Name trails.
   3. Deb-What is the map source? Virginia-Peter Goodwin of MMRG. Go to MMRG website for more maps.
10. **Set next meeting date and time: July 1, 2020 at 5:30pm (Zoom meeting)**
11. **Cynthia motioned to adjourn at 7:42pm. Karen seconded. All in favor.**