

Town of Milton
424 White Mountain Highway
Milton NH, 03851



Conservation Commission
PO Box 310
(Phone) 603-652-4501
(Fax) 603-652-4120

**Minutes from the Milton Conservation Commission
Casey Road Land Protection Committee Meeting**

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Present: Virginia Long, Wayne Sylvester, Bob Weiss, Cynthia (Cinny) Wyatt and Deb McCormack. (Karen Golab was present for item #5 only)

5:32pm Virginia called meeting to order.

No members of the public attended.

1) Minutes approval

- a) Bob motioned to accept the minutes from the November 5, 2020 meeting. Virginia seconded. All in favor.
- b) Cinny motioned to accept the minutes of the special meeting on November 23, 2020. Virginia seconded. All in favor.

2) Update on Conservation Easement/BDR Status

- a) Jill revised BDR as we requested.
- b) No word if BOS signed the BDR.
- c) No celebration planned yet.

3) Report on wetland delineation of 3.04-acre abutting town-owned land.

- a) Steve said wetland area is more than 3,000 sq.ft. Maybe an acre. Send to Cynthia Balcius.
- b) Cinny will send to BOS when Cynthia Balcius makes change.
- c) Will recommend to BOS to review DES rule on size of wetlands and to add this parcel to the Casey Road conservation land.
- d) Would this issue require disclosure on a P&S agreement prior to a sale?
- e) A wetland scientist's assessment paid by a developer might be different.
- f) Standard dredge and fill might be permitted.
- g) Virginia will draft DES rules.
- h) Cinny will create a draft to Ernie to discuss at next CC meeting.

4) Approve Quarterly report to BOS about donations to CC for signage etc.

- a) Need to provide maps in a container at kiosk.
- b) Cinny motioned to approve Quarterly Report. Bob seconded. All in favor.
- c) Need to put up extra plywood to stabilize plexiglass.

5) Hunting/Warrant Article.

- a) RSA -“may post” no hunting signs, but not required.
- b) Might be intrusive but should post for safety reasons.
- c) Might not want to prohibit hunting, since it has been allowed in the past.
- d) Consult with other town officials for an opinion.
- e) If decision/vote is to prohibit hunting, “No Hunting” signs should refer to year-round hiking.
- f) Branch Hill trails and Plummer’s Ridge trails don’t prohibit hunting.
- g) Need BOS approval and they could override the vote of the people.
- h) Reference to Atty. Steven Buckley, legal municipal council, and case vs. Jenkins.
- i) Warrant article language should not lead people to a particular vote. Need to keep it simple.
- j) Town Attorney will review wording.
- k) Karen motioned to accept revision of suggested warrant article wording drafted by Virginia as follows. Cinny seconded. All in favor.

“To see if the town will vote to prohibit hunting on the 79-acre town-owned Casey Road Conservation Land at the end of Casey Road. A majority vote in favor of a hunting prohibition means that that the town will post the property boundaries with No Hunting signs in conformance with RSA 635:4. The Select Board has the delegated authority to manage the property but wishes to abide by the choice of the townspeople .”

6) Update on plan for chain across trail and more permanent signs.

- a) Virginia asked Ernie when this could be presented to BOS.
- b) Boulders are safer than chains or ropes due to liability, even with warning signs.
- c) Virginia spoke to Nick Marique. Fire department uses Knox boxes with master key for locks.
- d) Easement disallows motorized vehicles.
- e) Should have “No ATV” signs. Could post in middle of trailhead with removable post in PVC cylinder at ground level.

7) Update on corrections to QR code info.

- a) Bob can’t log in yet to make changes.
- b) Will contact Tyler directly.

8) Plan for guided walk or other public outreach activity with MMRG to celebrate closing.

- a) Will ask Jill for her thoughts for celebration.

b) Snowshoe walks are popular.

9) Plan for spring workday to mark bus turn-around area and car parking area.

a) Put on hold for later discussion.

10) Other business.

a) Wayne went to Casey Road to blaze a trail from beaver dam to the main trail and saw a father and son bow hunting. He spoke with them and introduced himself. They were more than 450' from any house and it seemed acceptable for them to be there. Wants a commitment from schools for planned school trips before using that reason to suggest prohibiting hunting. Suggested having a public meeting to discuss hunting with CC attending.

b) Beaver dam still breached. Lyman brook is full.

c) Virginia found trash bags within 20-30 feet of shore, next to a path to a house. Not sure if on conservation land. Couldn't find boundary marker to determine if private or on Liberty open space. Maybe write a letter to landowner. Monitoring report didn't show any evidence of trash. Cinny forwarded information to Chris Kane. Virginia will designate which house. Sometimes evidence of person responsible might be in the trash.

d) Submit all receipts for payment.

Next meeting – January 7, 2021 at 5:30pm on Zoom.

Wayne motioned to adjourn meeting and Cinny seconded, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.