



MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PO BOX 310 MILTON, NH 03851
Meeting @ 6:00 PM, Wednesday, 10/4/2023
Milton Town Hall, 424 White Mountain Highway

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Virginia Long (Chair), Steve Panish, Jeff LeClair, Wayne Sylvester,

Alternates: Lee Pilkovsky

Absent: Robert Weiss, Sharon Buttrick,

Public: Ken Berry

1. Welcome guests: Ken Berry of Berry Surveying & Engineering
2. Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serves as full members as needed: V Long sat L Pilkovsky in for R Weiss.
3. Event announcements:
 - Guided Forest Immersion Walk with Robin Schumaker; 10 AM Sat, Oct 21 at Casey Road Conservation Land, please pre-register
 - MMRG annual meeting, speaker, raffle, & dinner; 4 PM Sun, Nov 12 at Bistro 19 at Kingswood Golf Course
 - NHACC annual meeting & conference; Sat, Nov 4 at Pembroke Academy
 - American Chestnut Tree workshop October 7
 - Conservation 101 for landowners October 25 in New Durham
 - Forest Management for climate workshop October 28 in Wakefield
 - Ecological Landscaping for the Home Gardener, Branch Hill Farm
4. Ken Berry presents on Natural Resource Stewards program and getting to know the Milton Community. MCC members answer his questions about the Commission's work.
5. Display/circulate MCC mail and CC materials for lending (sign-out sheet)
6. Review/Approve 9/6/2023 meeting minutes with corrections. *S Panish made a motion to accept the September 6 meeting minutes with V Long's revisions. J LeClair seconded. All were in favor. W Sylvester abstained.*

7. Financial Report: S Panish said there is no difference in the budget from last month. There is approximately \$1000 that is not obligated to anything right now. Except that there is \$300 which was approved by the board to go to purchase a new Wetlands Conservation district map to go towards the wetland's zoning ordinance warrant article. If we need to do any more mailing, then we have the money to do that. May need some for-trail maintenance. Discussion on what they may need to send out for mailings.

8. Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications OR Violations: None

9. Wetlands protections:

- Report on Planning Board work on Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance and Priority Wetlands designation; 9/19 and 10/3 PB MEETINGS. V Long was pleased that the Planning Board accepted their suggestion to add a piece to the article stating the restoration requirement that if someone has a violation of the wetlands rules then the restoration must be completed within one year of notice of violation and must be following a plan by a certified wetlands scientist and if there is a failure to comply then the town has the right to contract the restoration work and to bill the landowner.

10. Update on upcoming MCC event plans: 10/21 Forest Immersion Walk with Robin Schumaker. Plan on where to hang flyers to advertise this event.

11. Town-owned Easements and Conservation lands:

FEE PROPERTIES, REVIEW plans to 'monitor' each of these in 2023:

- CASEY RD CONSERVATION LAND (MMRG/JON NUTE MONITORS IN NOVEMBER)
- JONES BROOK PARK/PAYNE (MIKE AND JEFF INFORMALLY MONITOR) review Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MMRG and Town of Milton (sent out in advance). MMRG is responsible for all the project costs. The MCC has pledged \$7000 and that still holds, and those funds are set aside. Need to bring this back to the BOS for their signatures. Discussion on if the board needs to get legal involved in this project. V Long asked what the CC would think about pledging up to \$1000 to help pay legal fees for this project.

S Panish made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for legal fees to review the Jones Brook Easement. W Sylvester seconded. All were in favor.

- SPAULDING TURNPIKE: Update on ATV use and NHF&G enforcement activities. NH Fish and Game put up a camera and couldn't put signs up yet because when he had gone out there, he didn't have any with him. He was on vacation, so he hadn't had a chance to get out there to check the video. V Long walked out there to check for signs and didn't see any signs yet and picked up a bunch of litter. While she was out there, she walked the rest of the boundary which is along the highway. The state has a fence all along the highway to show where their right of way is separate from the conservation land. That fence has a lot of trees across it where you can step right over the fence also there are multiple places it looks like it was clipped. There are two spots that look like ATV's enter, one through the clipped part of the fence, other at snowmobile trail.

- DAMES BROOK: No report due to a member being absent
- OLD SKI AREA: Set tentative date to monitor. V Long is going to look into whether they can do it on a Friday or Saturday morning.
- BALL PROPERTY: See Sharon's monitoring report from this past summer.
 - Update on plan to clean up old dump sites: V Long talked to the BOS about the cleanup. Pat Smith will designate two men and equipment to help with the clean up on Earth Day as part of the general town Earth Day cleanup. V Long wants to send a thank you note to Stephen Duchesneau for driving her around to where the trash is and for taking the time to draw up a quote. She also wants to send one to Josh Megyesy for leading the turtle walk.
 - follow-up on encroachments: V Long hasn't talked to the BOS yet about Gustitus.

EASEMENTS: Kane Conservation Monitoring took place 9/12 & 9/13 (Virginia) – update on Chris Kane's unexpected death (MCC PARTICIPATE IN HONORING HIM?) and Norman Spicher's plans to fill in. V Long contacted Barbara Richter who is the head of New Hampshire Association of the Conservation Commission to see if she knows of anyone who does this kind of monitoring. She told her that Pete Steckler from Northeast Conservation Services may do monitoring. Virginia contacted him and he said this isn't something they normally do so he gave her a different contact number. Barbara said that if he doesn't work out then she will keep the CC in mind and will try to think of other people.

- FRIZZELL
 - LANCEY WARD -- MONUMENTS
 - LAVALLIERE
 - LYMAN BROOK **
 - SILVER SPRINGS
 - WALLACE WAY
 - NUTE HAYBARN AND PLANTATION EASEMENTS
 - LIBERTY CIRCLE – Nute monitors ** (NOVEMBER)
 - CURRENT – Steve monitors (MONTH?)
- Letters to ENCROACHING landowners (IF ANY ISSUES PERSIST THIS YEAR)

12. Trail Volunteers Group Update: Casey Rd- There was no response from the abutter, Chandler. The CC tried contacting them to let them know about the CC expanding a new trail. Wanted to know if they had any input with it being close to their bridge. The trail is the Stone Works Trail because it has stone walls, a stone culvert, steppingstones, and a stone bridge. It came out really good. J LeClair and Mike Schneider proceeded with putting the trail in and it is now complete. Jeff and Mike aren't going to blaze the trail for now. They want to wait to see if there are any issues with erosion, etc. Jeff took a couple of trees off the culvert. The new bench is attached to the kiosk with a cable and padlock. J LeClair is going to be attending a trail building 101 course being offered by SELT in early November. There is a \$5 suggested donation. Robyn let him know that there is tree falling across the trail that goes to Beaver Pond. It's falling across Lyman Brook also. MCC encouraged Jeff to leave the part of the tree across the Brook. J LeClair thinks he can handle cutting it up. Going to send MMRG the new trail update. J LeClair is thinking about building a bench by Lyman Brook.

13. Update on Tayzach Realty request for variance to build two houses on one lot: Map 5/Lot 7 on

Willey Rd next to Miller Pond, from ZBA public hearing on 9/26: The ZBA approved this variance with a condition of a 75-foot buffer.

14. Report from TPPA including MCC joint educational outreach (Wayne): TPPA lost their treasurer and the person that updates their website. W Sylvester contacted UNH to say that they need help. They didn't need to do an herbicide treatment this year because there was no European Naiad growth.
15. Recruitment of new Alternate members: ANY prospects?
16. Workshop reports if any
17. Virginia's report, including communications to MCC
18. Other business
19. Public input
20. Confirm date of next month's meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6 p.m.
21. Adjourn: *W Sylvester made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. S Panish seconded. All were in favor.*