



MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PO BOX 310 MILTON, NH 03851
Meeting @ 6:00 PM, Wednesday, 11/1/2023
Milton Town Hall, 424 White Mountain Highway

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE:

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

Alternates: Sharon Buttrick, Lee Pilkovsky,

Public:

Virginia Long, Chair, opened the public session at 6:00 PM.

1. Welcome guests: No Guest
2. Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serves as full members as needed: All present
3. Event announcements:
 - NHACC annual meeting & conference; Sat, Nov 4, Pembroke Academy
 - MMRG'S Ecological Landscaping for the Home Gardener, Branch Hill Farm; 10 AM Sat, Nov 4; PRE-REGISTER
 - Planning Board Public Hearing on Wetland Conservation Ordinance revisions and Significant Wetlands addition, Tues, Nov 21 @ 6 pm, Town Hall (Please plan to Attend!); Zoning Ordinance language is posted on PB webpage: <https://www.miltonnh.us.com/home/news/planning-board-posts-three-zoning-amendment-proposals-public-hearing-november-21st>
 - MMRG's Conservation Commission Mixer. February 15th, 5:30-7:30 in Wolfeboro
4. Display/circulate MCC mail and CC materials for lending: Letter from MMRG about the mixer event, which is above in the event announcements.
5. Review/Approve 10/4/2023 meeting minutes with corrections: *W Sylvester made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. J LeClair seconded. R Weiss abstained. The rest were in favor.*
6. Financial Report: review budget, bank statements, invoices, and reimbursement approvals: All that was spent this month was \$60 paid to W Sylvester for his NHACC meeting attendance, and

\$275 to NHACC for membership dues. That was all of the payouts for last month. They have to get the budget sent in to the budget committee. S Panish sent out his proposed line-item budget on which V Long had suggested some cuts. V Long went over everything with the board and discussed it.

2024's budget was decreased by about \$1000 from 2023's budget with V Long's changes.

W Sylvester makes a motion to adopt the \$5300 figure for next year's (2024) budget. R Weiss seconded. All in favor.

S Panish plans to buy PVC pipe for marking survey pins. Jeff LeClair found a section of PVC pipe that could be used with a chain to block off entrances to some trails to prevent ATV's driving on them.

Approve the fee for water testing up to a certain amount so the CC doesn't get delayed by a month or two after the bill comes in.

S Panish made a motion to allow the CC to spend up to \$1500 to pay for the UNH water testing program. W Sylvester seconded. All were in favor.

7. Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications OR Violations, if any (Virginia, Wayne)
None

8. Wetlands protections:

- Report on Planning Board work on Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance and Priority Wetlands designation:
 - Publicity for Public Hearings and information dissemination for Significant Wetlands: V Long mentioned writing a letter to send to the town to explain the importance of this ordinance. She did not write the letter because she talked to the town planner about it, and he said that the Conservation Commission couldn't do it because it cannot appear like it's electioneering by publicizing the public hearing. V Long contacted the NH Municipal Association attorney and they said that conservation commissions can send out neutral informative flyers about things. So, her read on this at the moment is that they won't try to publicize the public hearing but after the public hearing maybe they could put together a flyer that could go out to the town about the four priority wetlands. Discussion on when to print and send the flyers and how many they will need to do.
S Panish isn't sure if it's worth spending the money on. It is an important issue, but he isn't sure too many people in town would think the same thing and would bother to read it. Some certainly would. He suggests just putting it on social media. It was also mentioned to print a few to leave around town, but mail them, which is the most expensive part.
- Steep slopes ordinance can protect wetlands if they go into wetlands. V Long mentioned at a BOS meeting that she had attended for other reasons- there was a long discussion with an engineer about North East Pond Rd on how really badly damaged the road was from all the rain that we had gotten over the summer- she stood up at the end and said that one of the reasons was because there wasn't enough protection on building on steep slopes and maybe the BOS should direct the planning board to look at that. H Williams has since mentioned at one of the PB meetings that they should look at town regulations

that may have an impact on the roads and erosion. V Long sent H Williams and the town planner a model of the steep slope's ordinance from the state of NH.

9. Update on MCC event: 10/21 Forest Immersion Walk with Robin Schumaker: Was canceled because of the rain. Will try again in the spring.

Talk about what other event they can do this winter. Either a snow shoe walk or a dog walk.

10. Town-owned Easements and Conservation lands:

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

- CASEY RD CONSERVATION LAND: MMRG holds the easement here and sent a letter to the CC that says that they are planning to be monitoring their easements this fall.
- JONES BROOK PARK/PAYNE (MIKE & JEFF INFORMALLY MONITOR): We do not have an official monitor for this property. The BOS finally signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MMRG and Town of Milton. The final closing of the deed will be in 2025.
- SPAULDING TURNPIKE: MONITORED BY LEE AND VCL. V Long has not received an update of ATVs on the property.
- DAMES BROOK (Bob): R Weiss is going out there before the end of the season.
- OLD SKI AREA: PLAN TO MONITOR ON SAT, NOV 4 @ 9AM. Will post this on social media so people can see that the CC monitors some of their own properties.
- BALL PROPERTY: Sharon's monitoring report
 1. Update on plan to clean up old dump sites (Virginia): V Long is going to make sure that the DPW will be helping to clean up on Earth Day because Director Pat Smith is retiring before this happens.
 2. Follow-up on encroachments (Virginia): H Williams wants to find out what is going on here. V Long has an idea on what to say to Gustitus. Maybe have them pay for the monument under the condition that when or if they ever sell, they remove the shed and any other structures that have encroached on the Ball property. That marker will be visible to future homeowners, so they'll know where the Ball property line is. Others suggest the shed should be moved immediately to obey the restrictions of the parcel donation to the town. We will leave it up to the BOS but offer to take it on if they don't want to pursue it.

EASEMENTS: Kane Conservation Monitoring took place 9/12 & 9/13– V Long gave an update on Kane's monitoring and talked with Norman Spicher's (filling in for Chris Kane) and he plans to provide our reports. Norman may need to go out and monitor the properties again and that he would like to meet the members and may be interested in continuing to do some monitoring but is planning on retiring soon. V Long doesn't think it's a good idea to continue to use him if that is his plan. V Long asked a young woman who came out to monitor Virginias property, she is from SELT, if she would be interested in monitoring for us and she showed little interest. V Long asked MMRG if they would be interested, and they wrote back with a proposed monitoring contract for 2024-2025. It seems pretty reasonable, less than what Kanes monitoring charges however it does not include the two Nute easements because John Nute is on the MMRG board, and they think it would be a

conflict. We could do it or find someone else to do them all. More discussion on this. S Butrick volunteered to monitor the Nute easements.

S Panish made a motion to authorize V Long to sign a contract with MMRG to monitor our easement properties. W Sylvester seconded. All were in favor.

- FRIZZELL
 - LANCEY WARD
 - LAVALLIERE
 - LYMAN BROOK
 - SILVER SPRINGS
 - WALLACE WAY
 - NUTE HAYBARN AND PLANTATION EASEMENTS
 - LIBERTY CIRCLE – Nute monitors ** (NOVEMBER)
 - CURRENT – Steve monitors (WHEN?)
 - Letters to encroaching landowners
11. Trail Volunteers Group Update: J LeClair is going to a workshop but will be having surgery so will need to update everyone on the workshop when he is feeling better.
Casey Rd: He cut up a section of the fallen tree that was across the trail and left the part that went across the water. J LeClair found a wooden step stool and was inspired by it so instead of making a bench to put by the water he made a “chair” or maybe call it a Rustic Throne.
At the last meeting J LeClair was given a sign to replace the sign that had fallen down at the edge of Casey Rd in the Liberty Circle property. He laminated it and made a frame and put it back on the same tree. At the Stone Culvert on the Stone Works trail someone had moved the logs that were blocking off the trail and so he put them back. They haven’t been moved again and if they do get moved again then he will put up “no motorized vehicle signs” that he has. He is still planning on putting up a historical informational sign. Wondering if the historical society might have some information on that area. J LeClair ran into Mark Pryor on the Casey Rd trail, he was a volunteer that did some work out there last year when we were putting in the Overlook Knoll trail, he says that he is still interested in doing it, that he was really busy over the summer with his restaurant management but he said to keep him in the loop and if he gets out there this winter and sees any trees down then he will cut them up since he has a chainsaw.
Discussion on what color blazes to use on the new trail. They are going to paint them pink.
12. Update on Tayzach Realty development of Map 5/Lot 7 on Willey Rd next to Miller Pond: No update
13. Report from TPPA including MCC joint educational outreach: Nothing to report.
14. Recruitment of new Alternate members: Nothing new
15. Workshop reports (Bob Weiss on Coldwater Stream Habitat Community Forum) they are building a network of people and organizations interested in advancing our knowledge of current and future cold water stream habitats in the northeastern United States. It is a three-hour forum and they want to understand who is doing work to conserve current and future cold water habitat, how you are approaching cold water stream conservation and science. Examples given were restoration preservation data collection, outreach and research and then additional information

and tools that would help advance your work. What they are looking to do is establish a network in a central component to a new multi-year project supported by Northeast Climate Adaptation Center Science. The NECAC project is focused on stream water and water temperature in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky.

16. Virginia's report, including communications to MCC: Josh Megyesy thanked us for the card.
17. Other business: J LeClair asked if V Long knew how the trail clean up on Teneriffe trail went. She stated that she would say it was not all that well attended. Mike Schneider, Virginia, Veronica from MMRG and Irene Gostkowski (an abutter) were half of the group and Astrid Weiland from MMRG, Brad and Lorrie Drake from MMRG and another person were the other half. Each group did separate parts of the trail and they were going to meet in the middle. V Long and Mike had to leave early. The main thing they were doing was putting up trail markers and there are some trails that don't go anywhere so they were putting brush across so no one went down there and got lost. This trail can now be advertised, however there is very limited parking.
18. Public input: No public
19. Confirm date of next month's meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6 p.m. Possibly the new building at 55 Industrial Way.
20. Adjourn: *At 8:02 p.m. S Panish made a motion to adjourn. W Sylvester seconded. All in favor.*