

Town of Milton
Conservation Commission



PO Box 310
424 White Mountain Highway
Milton, NH 03851
(p)603-652-4501
(f)603-652-4120

1 **5/4/2022**

2 **Meeting Minutes**

3 **6:00PM**

4

5 **ATTENDANCE:**

6 **Members:** Virginia Long (Chair), Steve Panish, Robert Weiss, Wayne Sylvester, Deb McCormack

7 **Alternates:** Sharon Buttrick, Jeff LeClair

8 **Public:** Dan Bisson, Mike Beaulieu, John Alberghini

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

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11 **1.) Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serve as full members if needed:** As Bob was not
12 sworn in, Sharon Buttrick was authorized to vote in his place as an Alternate.

13 **2.) Welcome to guests in attendance**

14 **3.) Thank you to Bob Weiss for renewing his term as a Commissioner.**

15 **4.) Display/Circulate CC materials for lending (sign-out sheet):** State Birds of NH

16 **5.) Event announcements:** There were no events

17 **6.) Review/Approve 4/6/2022 meeting minutes:**

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19 **4/6/2022 minutes:** Wayne – motion to **approve the 4/6/2022 minutes** with corrections. Seconded by
20 Steve. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

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22 **7.) Update on status of 3.04-acre parcel abutting Casey Road Conservation Land (tax/lot 41/81):** Several
23 members have walked the property which includes areas of wetlands. It had previously been discussed
24 proposing to the BOS of adding this to Casey Road. It was then brought to Planning Board which did not
25 think this would be a good idea and the BOS agreed with that. Chris Jacobs had brought up at a recent
26 BOS meeting to conserve, but BOS first wanted to try selling the property. Public hearings would need to
27 be held. The MCC could get enough interested voters (50 signatures) to petition for a Warrant Article to
28 be added to the town meeting vote. Discussion occurred around the cost of getting the property
29 conserved which could be quite expensive to do. Possible two avenues to pursue: could try to conserve
30 by petition warrant article or wait to see if the property sells. Sharon asked for information regarding the
31 property. Virginia – it is a nice property, although there is no parking along Route 75; there could
32 potentially be enough room on dry land to have two parking spots. As the property has ~36% wetlands,
33 it is not felt the property is desirable for development and is desirable for conservation. Jeff – the
34 estimated dollars to conserve the property seems like a lot of money. Monies would come from the
35 Conservation Fund and maybe through fundraising. Wayne – we are already spending \$5,000 per the
36 two MMRG projects; we do not have an infinite amount of money. Mike Beaulieu suggests making an
37 offer for the property. The process is to submit a sealed bid to the BOS. Discussion ensued regarding
38 offer amounts and liabilities for the property.

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40 Steve motioned to offer \$X.XX amount with additional information. Wayne seconded the motion. All
41 were in favor; the motion was approved.

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43 **8.) Public Hearings for Conservation Fund donations to MMRG conservation projects:** June 1st CC meeting,
44 address envelopes for abutter courtesy letters.

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45 **9.) Town-owned Easements and Conservation Lands:**
46 Easements:
47 Update on Tremblay (Wallace Way) donation of easement parcel: As the property already has an
48 easement and is protected, the owner has offered the transfer to abutting landowners. Virginia is unsure
49 if that transfer has occurred yet.
50 Report on Virginia's 5/2/2022 presentation to BOS about easements and fee lands that MCC oversees
51 Fee properties: Virginia made a presentation at the recent BOS meeting and provided handouts that
52 included properties, along with additional information. The BOS was very appreciation of this
53 information.
54 Report on CC stewardship walk on Old Ski Area: Last Sunday, members walked the boundaries of the Old
55 Ski area. This monitoring is done to ensure there is no encroaching or development on the trails, as well
56 as pickup trash. Members were asked to fill out a form after the walk (Volunteer Easement Monitoring
57 Form from UNH – Deb, Sharon, Jeff completed; Short form – Bob completed; and Virginia did both).
58 From the information, one final report will be completed. Virginia asked for a member to take
59 responsibility for the yearly monitoring of the Old Ski area. Jeff – suggest doing trail walks/monitoring
60 with two people. Deb agreed – would rather to be with another person when monitoring. Virginia –
61 perhaps one member could assume overall responsibility but invite others along? Wayne – who is
62 currently monitoring the properties? Chris Kane is hired as monitor. Wayne – his opinion, there is not
63 overall huge cost savings by having the members assume monitoring responsibility. He is in favor of
64 keeping Chris as monitor – he is the expert and knows what to look for. Wayne – am tired of doing so
65 much and really only saving money for the town as ultimately it is the town's responsibility. The town
66 should foot the entire bill. He would walk the property but prefer not assume responsibility and have to
67 complete forms or reports. He questioned would ultimately is the purpose for taking on monitoring
68 responsibility? Just to save money for the town. Steve – it really is not that big of an issue; it's just
69 walking a trail and make sure people are not screwing it up. Bob – the initial goal was to have group
70 walks of all the trails to understand the individual property. Virginia asked who could volunteer to take
71 all the individual forms and consolidate into one report? Sharon volunteered to put the forms together.
72 Also: Make plan to complete easements on Jones Brook Park and Old Ski Area (mandated by town votes)
73 Jones Brook Park and Old Ski Area had been previously voted by the town to have easements placed on
74 them which had never been done. It would cost money to complete this; this could be another
75 opportunity to work with MMRG. First step is to have MOU completed between MCC and MMRG.
76 Virginia will invite Jill from MMRG to discuss this at the next meeting. The group agreed to proceed.
77 MMRG would hold the easement. Virginia would like the MOU done before the next town vote. MMRG
78 currently has other projects they are working on so this would not be finished prior to 2023.
79 Plan another stewardship walk: Plan another walk? Yes. The members agreed to walk Dames Brook on
80 June 11th at 9:00AM (rain date June 12th).

81 **10.) Financial Report, Budget:**
82 Steve – sent the report out prior to the meeting. Previously requested contribution to Sam Plummer
83 Road culvert (\$1,000) was taken out of the Conservation Fund. MCC Budget for 2022 is \$6,300. There is
84 one new bill for payment - \$100 dues for TPPA. Steve requested commission approve annual dues for
85 TPPA.

87 Steve – motion to approve \$100 for TPPA and further the Treasurer be allowed to pay automatically
88 without future board approval. Deb seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion was approved.



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11.) Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications or Violations:

No DES applications this month

Carol McLeod concerns regarding house lot clearing on Northeast Pond Rd (Dan, Wayne): Currently with new construction on Northeast Pond Road, Carol reported significant runoff and erosion. Dan Bisson reviewed the map and impact of excess water on specific parcels. Carol had reached out to Brian Boyers who indicated application & permit-wise, there were no issues. Virginia will ask Suzanne Purdy to also review the permits. Wayne – he, along with Jen King, looked at the properties and they both indicated the property had been clear-cut and that there is sediment running down into the ditch which goes into the culvert, which then goes into the pond. Steve – he suggested Carol take photos of the issues and forward to Brian. If nothing happens, she should then contact Chris Jacobs, Town Administrator. Virginia – questioned if the MCC should go with the landowners to the BOS and request the BOS tell Pat Smith to address and do something, as the culvert system is part of the town. Steve – Carol should take photos and file a complaint. Virginia – not sure if Carol is willing to take on the fight and had felt brushed off when she contacted Brian about the situation. Sharon – agreed that Carol and Mike (McClintic) should contact Brian. Steve – it’s important to remember the MCC is not the enforcer body and this is not part of MCC’s job. They need to follow the established process.

Mark McClintic has concerns about storm water runoff across his property and into Northeast Pond (Wayne): See discussion above.

12.) Next steps follow-up of Master Plan discussions: host educational event for MS4? Educates ourselves and PB about process to designate Prime Wetlands, other outcomes?

Follow-up discussion from previous meeting when Bruce Woodruff was in attendance and he encouraged the MCC to hold an educational event about MS4. All agreed it would be good to help with this endeavor. Sharon – there is no budget for this event; it would be nice to offer refreshments – could we ask for budget for this? Mike Beaulieu asked what kind of advertising there would be as advertising costs could get expensive. He also suggested asking the BOS to see if they could offer funds. Virginia thought an invitation postcard would work. Deb asked about the target audience of the postcard? It could potentially be all of Milton. Deb – a sign at the Transfer Station could be helpful. Virginia – while MCC would be the event host, they could have a panel of experts who would provide the education. Steve suggested getting Bruce’s thoughts. If this were to happen over the summer, planning needs to start now. Virginia – will ask Bruce for details and BOS for funds. Steve – it’s important to do something that will attract people to this event. Deb suggested coat-tailing it onto another already planned event like the summer kick-off. Virginia – we could handout flyers at the summer kickoff. Wayne questioned the overall purpose of the flyers. Virginia – it is up to Bruce to put together; she asked for volunteers to hand out the flyers at the summer kick-off and plan for an educational event later in summer. Wayne – with COVID, should plan for an outdoor venue. Tentative date, July 16th, morning. Virginia will coordinate with Bruce.

13.) Update on formation of new Town of Milton Trails Committee: Chris Jacobs is still reviewing the financial procedures.

14.) Update on town of Milton trails map to be created by Peter Goodwin: Peter has started the map.

15.) Casey Road Conservation Land updates (Jeff).

16.) Educational Outreach: TPPA, Facebook, Other:

17.) Update on Sam Plummer Rd Culvert Project: Eversource did cut some trees at no charge.

18.) Update on Northeast Pond Condo Development.

19.) Update on Recruitment of new alternate Commission members: There was no update.

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- 135 **20.) Plan for organizing MCC Files at Town Hall:** Sharon reported she is developing a method for organization
136 and will work with Suzanne to help with digital search methods.
- 137 **21.) Public input:** There was none.
- 138 **22.) Other Business:** Regarding Walt Cheney – it would be a good idea to conserve some existing land before
139 Walt buys it. Virginia suggested sending a letter to landowners whose property contains lots of natural
140 resources – “have you ever thought of conserving your land?” She will draft letter. She asked permission
141 from the MCC to write the letter and send out to landowners. All members agreed to this. Virginia said it
142 appears the property next to the Old Ski Area is currently being surveyed.
143 Gould Pond – Prime Wetlands designation – this could be quite a process and we might need to hire a
144 Wetlands Scientists. Will add to next meeting agenda. Phil and Jill will have a 10-minute presentation
145 and allow 10 minutes for Q&A at the upcoming public hearing on June 1st.
- 146 **23.) Confirm next meeting date: Wednesday, June 1, 6:00PM.**
- 147 **24.) Adjourn:**

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149 Sharon – motioned to adjourn at 8:10PM. Steve – seconded the motion. All were in favor; the meeting
150 adjourned at 8:00PM.
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