



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:..... **Regular Meeting**
Date:..... **May 25, 2021**
Time:..... **6:30 p.m.**
Place:..... **Bombardier Park East Pavilion**
Address:..... **N/A**
Contact:..... **(802) 893-1186**
Website:..... **www.miltonvt.gov**

MEETING MINUTES

Dan Gaherty, Chair
Juli Tyson, Member

Judith Kinner, Vice-Chair
William Pikul, Member

Laurie DiCesare, Clerk
Tom Pendergast, Member

Bonnie Pease, Member

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaherty at 6:49 p.m.

2. Attendance:

Members Present: Dan Gaherty, Laurie DiCesare, Judy Kinner, William Pikul, Juli Tyson; Bonnie Pease.

Members absent: Tom Pendergast.

Staff Present: Jenna Tucker (Milton Recreation Director).

Public Present: None.

3. Agenda Review:

Jenna added an update on biking trails. Dan added his meeting with Don Turner and Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW) update. Judy added an update on Green-Up Day.

4. Business:

a. Green-Up Day:

Judy said that, according to a Chittenden Solid Waste District report, facilitated by Casella Waste Systems, Milton deposited 3.22 tons of waste and 4.47 tons of tires (~416 tires). In Chittenden County, only Burlington and Colchester collected more trash than we did with about 100 volunteers. This is more than we collected on any other day in 15 years of Green-Up programs. We will order more than 500 bags next year. Jenna will e-mail Staff Writer Bridgett Higdon about writing a paragraph about the event for the Milton Independent.

b. Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW):

William found many pink flags during his boundary search field trip at LRW. Jenna said that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was doing a flood-risk assessment survey. Dan said this might be due to the loss of our VYCC bridge.

c. Trail App (Paperless Trail Maps):

Bonnie: Hinesburg Town Forest has about 30 miles of trails that use the paperless Avenza app. and Trail Finder (from Local Motion.) They are sponsored by many organizations. In 2005, Trail Finder supported about 750 trails including three in Milton. (Bonnie said some of our Trail Finder descriptions for the Milton Town Forest still include the Bove name which should be removed.) Our trailhead kiosks urge walkers to take a photo of our trail map. William says he uses a Trail Source app. Dan urged us to use the Trail Finder and see how accurate it is.

d. Benches for Natural Areas:

Jenna said that Miracle Playground Equipment was used for the playground renovations. They are having a sale with free shipping on benches. They weigh 115 pounds each and come in blue or brown. Dan said he will contact a local representative about how the two support posts are secured in the ground. It will probably need a concrete base. We can buy two on sale for \$698. Bonnie suggested the Pond View Loop as a bench site.

Dan said we have \$1,291. Remaining in our MCC budget that runs to the end of the month. We also have \$921 remaining on our Rise Grant for work on the Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW.) We will need to pay Remy Crettol for his work on the LRW Natural Resources Inventory.

Judy MOVED that we buy two 6-foot, coated-metal benches from the Miracle Playground Company for \$698. Juli SECONDED. All approved. MOTION PASSED.

e. 2021 Natural Area Maintenance Projects:

Lamoille Riverwalk: Dan said the steps between posts 4 and 5 (beyond the water treatment plant) need repair. We will look at the site to estimate the repair costs. William said he did trail maintenance, cutting damaged or fallen trees into 3-foot lengths to provide rustic seats for walkers.

Eagle Mountain: Judy mentioned the “Corduroy” bridge just south of the Barley Patch link on the Wildflower Loop needs upgrading. Bonnie said the Mossy Ledge Trail also needs work. William estimated the amount of crushed stone needed. Judy will ask permission to leave a pile of crushed stone at the side of Cold Spring Rd. for William to have easy access for pick up and transportation with his tractor.

Milton Town Forest (MTF): Bonnie said there is a wet section with a seasonal stream on the Yellow Ridge Line West, halfway between “Jason’s Bridge” (Bridge #5 on the MTF map) and the power line, that could use a puncheon bridge.

Priorities: Repair the LRW steps first, then work on the corduroy section of Eagle Mountain.

Crushed-stone Source: Bonnie suggested Grayrock Quarry. Min. 5 yards (1 ton) for \$75. We need about 2 tons.

5. Staff Updates:

Judy Kinner, who has been on the MCC for at least 15 years, will be moving to Williston sometime this Summer.

Tom Pendergast, who recently accepted a position as Ranger at Niquette Bay State Park, has missed two meetings without notice. Dan will contact him.

Juli Tyson will be moving to southern New Hampshire to be near her family (by 400,000 acres of conserved land) and grad school (majoring in Wildlife Biology.) She has friends who may be interested in the MCC.

Jenna: “Rake and Ride” mountain-biking trails are being added to the woods in Bombardier Park. General sites have been approved by Town Manager Don Turner and a State wetlands representative. GIS mapping will take place this week. Next week, Kris will walk the area. About 2 to 3 miles of trails will be flagged starting at the Red Trail trailhead.

Grove: On May 2, Kris, William and Jenna planted 18 trees (apple, plum, pear, hazelnut, American chestnuts...) and 8 berry bushes (gooseberry, blueberry...) Mulch, topsoil and fertilizer were added to the holes and the plants were watered.

Community Gardens: A 50x50-foot plot by the Bombardier Barn was tilled. Six (out of a possible 15) people have applied for plots. The Recreation Department has purchased 400 feet of hose.

Dan: Don Turner says the Town Office will be open to the public by appointment on June 1, 2021. Cymone, Don and Dan had a conference call about Remy Crettol's LRW Natural Resources Inventory. Don said he will work with the MCC to present the Town Ordinance to the Select Board. Jenna said she mentioned the Ordinance to them at a previous Select Board meeting. Don approved of County Forester Ethan Tapper's proposal to provide a free MTF Management Plan, enabling Ethan to start the project.

Nature Notes: Dan saw a Luna Moth (*Actias luna*) at his home ~ May 18, 2021. Juli pointed out a Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) on a nearby tree during our meeting.

6. Review of Minutes:

Judy MOVED that we table review of the April 27, 2021 minutes to next meeting. Juli SECONDED. All approved. MOTION PASSED.

7. Adjournment:

Judy MOVED that we adjourn. Bonnie SECONDED. All approved. MOTION PASSED. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie DiCesare, Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

_____ Date: _____
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this _____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST: _____, Milton Town Clerk