



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:..... **Regular Meeting**  
 Date:..... **February 22, 2022**  
 Time:..... **6:30 p.m.**  
 Place:..... **Community Room**  
 Address:..... **43 Bombardier Road, Milton**  
 Contact:..... **(802) 893-1186**  
 Website:..... **www.miltonvt.gov**

*CHANGES IN  
4.d & 4.G*

## MEETING MINUTES

*Dan Gaherty, Chair*

*Laurie DiCesare, Clerk*

*Bonnie Pease, Member*

*William Pikul, Member*

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaherty at 6:42 p.m.

### 2. Attendance:

Members Present: Dan Gaherty, Laurie DiCesare, William Pikul, and Bonnie Pease.

Members absent: None.

Staff Present: Jenna Tucker Eugair (Milton Recreation Director), Kris Dulmer (Tree Warden/MCC Coordinator).

Public Present: Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper (via Zoom)

### 3. Agenda Review:

Bonnie added bird nest Box Review; Dan added Arrowhead Mountain Lake work group.

### 4. Business:

#### a. Milton Town Forest Management Plan (discussion with County Forester Ethan Tapper)

Dan asked Ethan for an estimate of the value of timber in Stands 5 and 6 (see Ethan's MTF Forest Stand Map of Oct. 2021.) Ethan suggested between \$15,000 and \$20,000. He would suggest pre-commercial thinning of the sugar maples in Stand 4 with wood being scattered on the forest floor (none removed) to increase diversity. Dan mentioned the class II Wetland around the Stand 8 access trail with our ADA trailhead. Ethan said there are some Wetlands exemptions possible for forest management. Bonnie said that opening a logging trail might encourage other detrimental uses of the site. Dan asked how we ensure that Best Management Practices would be used for any work done. Ethan offered to help us find a reputable logger and would help supervise the project.

Dan asked what is suggested for Stand 4. Ethan said that stand is relatively young as the MTF was clear-cut 85 years ago. There is very little leaf litter due to non-native earthworms. Any logged wood would be left on the forest floor to help reduce erosion. Sugar maples need organic matter to grow. Creating canopy gaps would encourage beech and other species to grow. Ethan offered to lead a MCC walk to do a field survey before any public walks or presentations begin in the Spring.

Dan asked about possible conservation easements. Ethan said the Hinesburg and Jericho town forests now have them. Bonnie recommended that we use a VT Land Trust easement as she has an easement from them for her land. Ethan said the Vermont Land Trust would need about \$20,000 for legal fees and about \$30,000 for management fees. A stewardship fund specifically for forest management could be started. The Select Board would need to approve the process and we would need a town vote to raise the money for this project. The VT Land Trust may be able to help with fundraising.

Stand 5 contains an old black cherry tree. Ethan suggests encouraging species and structure diversity by retaining some "legacy trees" and making some .1- to .25-acre canopy gaps. The understory there is now mostly ferns which represents areas of heavy deer browsing. Deer do not like to browse on

beech or witch hazel. Ethan recommends some invasive plant removal via cutting and adding a minute amount of herbicide to each stump.

Dan said we have applied for grants to continue the ADA-accessible trail from the bridge to Milton Marsh. Ethan said he will specify that the ADA-accessible trail will not be used for forest work. He is willing to offer some public MTF walks in April and May.

**b. Enhancement of Recreation Stewardship and Access (ERSA) Trail grant:**

Dan said we have been notified that we did not receive the ERSA grant.

**c. Recreational Trails Program (RTP):**

Dan said we may be able to apply for a RTP grant. Jenna would like to know why we didn't receive a grant last year. Dan said letters of interest would be needed by March 1, 2022. By March 8, we would know if we have approval to apply for the grant. A full application would be due by April 29, 2022.

Bonnie MOVED that we apply for the Recreational Trails Program grant for 2022. Laurie SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

Dan said our wetlands permit will expire in Nov. 2022.

**d. Winter Festival Tree Walk:**

Dan thanked Kris for leading the Winter Festival Tree Walk which Bonnie and Brian Pease attended <sup>ALONG</sup> with other parents and their children. Kris offered to lead a Summer walk.

**e. MCC Member Recruitment:**

William will bring updated information to our next meeting. He has been working with Milton on the Move and will include MCC recruitment in his meetings.

**f. Green-Up Day (May 7, 2022):**

Laurie agreed to be contact person for the event. Bonnie, who offered to co-chair, suggested we offer coffee and donuts from 8 a.m. to Noon. Dan said we will have a \$300 budget for the event. Jenna suggested we use Dunkin Donuts which can serve 48 people for \$130. She has reserved the easel for posting the Town map for indicating routes to be walked. She will also help with handing out the Green-Up bags.

**g. Arrowhead Mountain Lake Project:**

Dan said that Katy Dynarsky of the Franklin County Conservation District has contacted us about <sup>A LAKE ARROWHEAD WORK GROUP</sup> upcoming lake enhancement projects. We all voiced an interest in <sup>PARTICIPATING</sup> helping. Laurie sent Katy a letter of interest, mentioning her photos of lake species associated with eutrophication.

**h. MCC / Recreation Committee Meeting (March 9, 2022):**

Jenna will send us an agenda for our upcoming meeting starting at 6 p.m.

**i. Birdability:**

Bonnie mentioned a Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge walk with "Bird Diva" Bridget Butler who will assess "birdability" at the site ([www.birdability.org](http://www.birdability.org).) Bonnie said "birdability" may be a benefit we could add to our trail grant applications.

**j. Girl Scout Bird Box Update:**

Bonnie asked about checking in with the Girl Scouts about their bird box project. William said the troop may have disbanded. Dan will send the name of our contact person to Bonnie.

**6. Nature Notes:** Dan saw 10 deer in his yard 10 days ago. Laurie saw 10 wild turkeys in a field on East Road today. Kris saw a Bald Eagle in Keeler's Bay, south hero.

**7. Approval of Minutes:**

Bonnie MOVED we accept the amended Minutes of Jan. 25, 2022. William SECONDED. All approved. MOTION PASSED.

**8. Adjournment:**

Bonnie MOVED that we adjourn. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at ~ 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

Dan Gaherty Date: MARCH 22, 2022  
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2022.

ATTEST: Krist Bees, Milton Town Clerk

