



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

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 6:45 p.m.

2. Attendance:

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

Members absent: Laurie DiCesare.

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

Public Present: None.

3. Agenda Review:

Bonnie added Girl Scout Bird Boxes.

4. Business:

a. Revised Town Forest Management Plan (3.9.22)

Dan noted that County Forester Ethan Tapper had sent two more clarifications; one that he will serve as the forester-in charge for prescribed projects (page 3, third paragraph), and two that the handicapped accessible recreational trail will not be used as a skid road or truck road for the forestry projects.

It was also noted by Dan that Stand 8 (including the TF access trail and parking lot) is a wetlands, and not feasible for use as a log landing.

It was decided that the entire commission should be prepared to vote on this at the next meeting, so we can present this to the Selectboard in the near future.

The Commission would like to walk the Town Forest with Ethan Tapper before presenting this to the Selectboard, and a Wednesday afternoon, after 2:30 pm was selected as the best time for all, given some had time constraints. The exact date is to be determined, and would be about two hours long. We might park at the Pease's if the other parking lots are full.

b. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application

The full application for this year is due April 29th. Planning Director, Cymone Haiju presented this application to the Selectboard for approval, along with other needed funds to complete Phase Two of the Town Forest ADA compatible trail section.

Discussion took place on some of the challenges the commission has faced with the wetlands permitting. Brock Fryer the State wetlands person for this area, did not realize our current wetlands permit includes every area of the 2015 proposal, including the Phase Three ADA compatible viewing platform. Brock Fryer walked the proposed Phase Two section with Dan and had some minor concerns about trail locations that were addressed, and gave his approval. Then the Army Corps of Engineers permit was challenged by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development archaeology

division. Just last week State survey archaeologists Scott Dillon, Yvonne Barsque and State Archaeologist Jess Robinson gave Cymone Haiju approval for extending our wetlands permit. Our wetlands permit runs out November of this year (2022).

The commission discussed how costs for Phase Two that have risen since this was first proposed in 2015. It was decided to also apply for an AARP Community Challenge Grant.

c. AARP Community Challenge Grant Application

Bonnie made the motion to apply for this grant, and seconded by William, with all in favor.

d. Chittenden County Walk/Bike/Trails Commission Meet Up March 31st

Members were sent the links to participate in this if interested. This is a continuation of the Bike Path Committee that former member Judy Kinner participated in years ago, that was not passed by the Selectboard at that time.

e. Lake Arrowhead work group Zoom Meeting. April 6th

Members were sent the links to participate in this if interested. Some members indicated they are interested in this project. Jenna related that the town is trying to put in a recreational path that parallels route 7, and that Rick Sharp of Cobble Hill would like a path connecting to his recreational offerings and he offered to build a portion of a new trail on the land he owns called the "punch bowl".

f. Green Up Day, May 7th

Discussion took place on what needs to be done, and by whom. Laurie was not in attendance, so Jenna is helping to order 200 more Green Up Day (GUD) bags, to go with the 500 we just received. We ran out of bags last year at 500. The usual posters will be placed in the community, Dan will list GUD reminders on Front Porch Forum, Jenna will add information on GUD to their Facebook, and other Recreational media sources. It was recommended we put in a write up in The Islander weekly newspaper, which is now Milton's newspaper of official record. Jenna will also put up sandwich board advertising. Dan will put up the wire signs that point to the Pavilion area to pick up bags Saturday morning from 8 to noon. Because the little League also starts that day and has food vendors, we will no longer offer lunch, or prizes for strangest finds. We will offer coffee and donuts.

Jenna mentioned that the Town Managers office is working on Inclusion Week, the following day, May 8th, and might advertise that on GUD.

g. Staff Updates:

Kris reported that we have a new Finance Director, RaMona Sheppard, a new Rescue Chief, Sean McCann, and that Art Garrison resigned as Waste Water Plant operator for another job.

5. Nature Notes:

Kris reported it looks like a good maple sap season this year.

7. Approval of Minutes:

Bonnie MOVED we accept the amended Minutes of February 22, 2022. William SECONDED. All approved. MOTION PASSED.

8. Other:

Bonnie reported that the Girl Scout leader did not return her request for an update on the success of the bird nesting boxes they placed in the Town Forest, & Lamoille River Walk.

8. Adjournment:

William MOVED that we adjourn. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at ~ 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Pease, MCC Member

APPROVED MINUTES:

 _____ Date: 4-26-22
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 28th day of April, 2022.

ATTEST: Kristi Beas _____, Milton Town Clerk

