



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Meeting Type:..... **Regular Meeting**  
Date:..... **April 27, 2021**  
Time:..... **6:30 p.m.**  
Place:..... **Via Teleconference**  
Address:..... **N/A**  
Contact:..... **(802) 893-1186**  
Website:..... **www.miltonvt.gov**

## MEETING MINUTES

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*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 6:37 p.m.

### 2. Attendance:

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

Members absent: Bonnie Pease; Tom Pendergast

Staff Present: Kris Dulmer (Tree Warden /MCC Liaison); Jenna Tucker (Milton Recreation Director).

Public Present: Bridget Higdon (Milton Independent)

### 3. Agenda Review:

Agenda additions: Kris will add information on the orchard grant. Laurie added Nature Notes.

### 4. Business:

#### a. Updates: Dan:

Lamoille Riverwalk: Remy Crettol is working on the Natural Resources Inventory. He will be in the field this Summer and Fall on weekends. We will reconnect with him in early June.

Forest Management Plan: Dan will talk with Town Manager Don Turner and Cymone Haiju (Director of Planning & Development Review) this week.

Draft Ordinance for Milton Natural Areas: County Forester Ethan Tapper has offered to prepare a town forest Management Plan for free.

#### b. Green-Up Day (Sat. May 1, 2021):

Town map is in the Town Office lobby and available for route sign-ups. Green-Up bags are on the table. So far mostly rural areas have been marked. Ben Nappi (Recreation Dept.) added information to Facebook and the Town website. Bridget said she will write an article for tomorrow's edition of the Milton Independent. Judy said someone will be at the East Pavilion with bags and the Town map from 8 a.m. until noon. Tom Pendergast, who is the new Ranger for Niquette Bay State Park, will not be available to set up the composting table. Judy put posters at Milton High School and the Middle School. Jenna will put up a poster at the Town Office. Judy will pick up the bags and map on Friday afternoon. A TikTok site will be available for posting photos. Dan wrote a Front Porch Forum notice. Public Works members will pick up the bags on Monday.

**c. 2021 Natural Areas Repairs and Projects:**

Lamoille Riverwalk: William will clear downed trees on Friday. He is concerned about loose boards on a wetland puncheon and a set of steps that are in need of repair. Laurie mentioned that she has two rolls of MCC chicken wire available for traction. Dan said the 6x6 puncheon wood is much lighter after winter storage so we may buy some wood in this fiscal year for later use.

Eagle Mountain: Dan said he will remove the four downed trees. William and Judy will estimate the area to be covered and amount of stone needed for the path through the wet seep on the Wildflower trail. Laurie asked about drainage. William will add PVC pipes to allow water to flow through.

Milton Town Forest: There are several muddy areas on the Milton Marsh trail beyond the VYCC footbridge. A 70- to 100-ft. puncheon is needed at Ridgeline West after bridge #5, before the utility line.

**d. Staff Update:**

Milton Recreation received an Urban Community Forestry / Arbor Day Grant of \$1,100 to start an orchard. Kris will pick up the bare root trees this Saturday (May 1). Milton Recreation hired A Cut Above to prepare and even-out the ground. The plot is located behind the Milton Fire Station. The twenty 5- to 6-foot trees (including pears, apples, plums, American chestnuts, hazelnuts, blueberries...) will be planted on Sunday (May 2). The soil is sandy but water-seeping tree gators will help keep the soil moist. Planting will start Sunday around 9 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to help with the plantings. William will bring an auger to help dig the holes. Juli suggested Timothy Pollock as a reference person on tree maintenance. Jenna said there will be space at the center of the orchard for sitting. A 50 x 100-foot Community Garden is also being considered nearby. Water sources and compost sites are being discussed.

**e. Nature Note:**

Laurie photographed a small, blue butterfly, probably a Lucia Azure (*Celastina lucia*), on the Lamoille Riverwalk this afternoon, a first for the park species list. She will confirm the identity on iNaturalist.org. She also saw a turkey crossing McMullen Road this afternoon. Dan saw two red foxes at Eagle Mountain where the trilliums are blooming.

**f. Review of MCC Minutes (March 23, 2021):**

Judy MOVED to accept the Minutes as amended. Laurie SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

**5. Adjournment:**

Judy MOVED that we adjourn. Laurie SECONDED. MOTION PASSED. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie DiCesare, Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

Dan Gaherty  
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Date: 6-30-21

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

ATTEST: Kristi Beers, Milton Town Clerk