



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:.....**Regular Meeting**
Date:.....**June 28, 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

Pamela Sandoval, Member

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaherty at 6:40 p.m.

2. Attendance:

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

Members absent: None.

Staff Present: Kris Dulmer (Tree Warden/MCC Coordinator).

Public Present: None.

3. Agenda Review:

Possible special meeting.

4. Business:

a. Green-Up Day (May 7, 2022) Review: Bonnie mentioned that our Green-Up Day preparation checklist needs to be updated. She will write a thank-you note to the volunteers for the Islander. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts were well received. Laurie handed out nature photo bookmarks. Laurie will send Bonnie any data she has about how much trash was collected.

b. Review of Tour of Milton Town Forest (May 26, 2022): Dan and William accompanied Cymone Haiju, Scott Dillon (VT Dept. of Historic Preservation) and an Army Corps of Engineers representative for a walk along the Milton Town Forest path to the proposed viewing Platform on Milton Marsh. William has the GPS coordinates of the path from the bridge (where the improved, crush-pack trail currently ends) to the marsh. Beyond the crush-pack, the trail was very muddy and greatly broadened in width. Kirsten Jensen in the Town Office will be working on the proposed map of the trail to Milton Marsh.

The group also walked over to the Marquette Farm Road. Dan said we received verbal confirmation that the Town has met all guidelines and requirements to let us continue with the proposed Phase II of our Milton Town Forest ADA trail.

c. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Application: Dan said that award announcements are due out by the end of June.

d. ARPA Grant Application: Dan attended the Select Board meeting on June 20, 2022. Laurie prepared a photo essay on the Milton Town Forest Trail (showing unimproved path greatly widened) that she will send to Dan for MCC members, associates and the Select Board.

e. Milton Town Forest (MTF) Management Plan: Dan, Bonnie and William recently walked the Milton Town Forest with Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper. Select Board approval is needed for the proposed MTF

Management Plan. Town manager Don turner has placed this on the Select Board agenda for July 18, 2022. Ethan wants to offer some public walks in late Summer or early Fall.

f. Trail Maintenance Projects: Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW): William and Kris cleared 5 trees from the path. Kris spoke about a possible new path to the LRW around the Water Treatment Plant.

Eagle Mountain: William and Dan cleared about 10 downed trees from the trail to Hoyt Lookout. Dan has the cut materials ready for the raised walkway over the seepy area on the Wildflower Loop trail. Dan will ask local Boy Scout troops to help with clearing away and disperse the cedar logs that are currently there. Pamela and Bonnie removed some old trail markers and re-sprayed blazes. The Hoyt Lookout sign will need to be cemented into place. The benches we ordered have no ground support so will be re-ordered for possible shipment in August.

g. Possible Special Meeting: Dan said he learned that tonight’s MCC meeting was posted late so we will need a special meeting to vote on purchasing materials for a 75-ft. raised walkway over a small stream on the Ridgeline West Trail in the MTF. Dan will meet with Bonnie to walk the area tomorrow. We have \$811 remaining in our budget that we must use by July 1, the end of the fiscal year.

5. Staff Update: Kris said that a couple of seasonal grounds workers have been hired. Cally Audet has left so our MCC Minutes will now be sent to Cymone.

6. Nature Notes: Bonnie saw balls of young catfish (probably Black Bullhead fry) along the shore of Milton Pond. Laurie escorted a 9-inch garter snake out of her bathroom and into her front yard. William saw a painted turtle in his yard. Pamela heard a fish crow, hermit thrushes and a scarlet tanager at Eagle Mountain today.

7. Approval of Minutes:

Laurie MOVED that we approve the special Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2022. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION Passed.

8. Adjournment:

Laurie MOVED that we adjourn. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

_____ Date: _____
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk’s Office on this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ATTEST: _____, Milton Town Clerk