



# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:..... **Regular Meeting**  
 Date:..... **August 24, 2021**  
 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*

*Juli Tyson, Member*

*William Pikul, Member*

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaherty at 6:38 p.m.

### 2. Attendance:

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

Members absent: None.

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

Public Present: Jim Lambert.

### 3. Agenda Review:

Dan added election of MCC officers. Juli added an update on Remy's Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW) Natural Resources Inventory.

### 4. Public Forum:

Bombardier Park walker, Jim Lambert, talked with Jenna about putting "You are here" signs and maps in the park. Jenna said that Bombardier Park is part of a larger project to update the trails. Jim also asked about brush-hogging Tracy's Field. Jenna said she will ask Justin Bergeron about that. Dan said that vandalism has been a problem with temporary sign removal over the years. Laurie said that the MCC has made many field trips in the area to try to determine the park boundaries and re-route the trails inside them.

Jim mentioned that he wants more barbed wire removed. Jenna said she and a team of volunteers who had signed Town waivers removed some barbed wire. In an earlier conversation, she had asked him not to remove any wire on his own but he posted a notice online and removed a lot more with people who had not signed Town waivers. Jim said the barbed wire was dangerous for people and dogs. Dan said that people walking off-trail do so at their own risk. Bonnie said dogs need to be leashed.

Jim also asked for a winter Port-a-Potty. Jenna says the Select Board is talking about weatherizing the field house, a project which might pass during the next budget season. Jim also asked about having water at the dog park. Jenna says a natural rainwater collection and filtration system is planned.

### 5. Business:

#### a. Remy's Natural Resources Inventory:

Juli said Remy hasn't been in touch recently because he has been working 55-hour weeks at his new job with the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD). He texted her that he has approached WNRCD about possible grant funding for the Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW) Natural Resources

Inventory that he had started working on for us. With an “impaired” stream on the former Milton landfill property, grant funding will be easier to obtain.

Dan said we have not yet paid Remy for the inventory work he started. Juli will ask Remy to send Dan a new WNRCD proposal including the timing requirements of the grant. Juli said Remy will bring grant information to the next MCC meeting (Sept. 28.)

**b. Election of Officers:**

Bonnie MOVED that Dan remain as Chair; William will assume the Vice-chair position; and Laurie will continue as Clerk. Laurie SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

**c. AVCC Membership:**

Dan said that our Association of VT Conservation Commissions (ABCC) membership had lapsed. He asked Cymone Haiju to renew our membership until 2022 at \$50 a year.

**d. Trail Finder:**

Bonnie asked Jenna for a QR code for the Trail finder website to post at kiosks for all four parks: Eagle Mountain, Bombardier, Milton Town Forest and the Lamoille Riverwalk. Jenna will look into this.

**e. Enhancement of Recreation Stewardship and Access (ERSA) Trail Grant:**

Our Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application was not accepted. On August 16, 2021, Planning Director and grant administrator, sent a memo about the ERSA grant to the Select Board for approval. This grant would not require matching money from the Town. Letters of Interest are due August 27, 2021 and Cymone is working on these. On Sept. 27, 2021, if our Letters of Intent are approved, we may start the application process. A completed application is due Nov. 15, 2021. Awards would be made in early January. Our Wetland Application is due to expire in Nov. of 2022.

Once approved, William suggested we quickly contact a contractor about scheduling the work. Kris says that plywood prices have recently returned to normal. Dan said we will need updated materials quotes for the project. Bonnie said there are still very muddy areas beyond the first footbridge.

**f. Natural Areas Ordinance Update:**

The Select Board has received our draft ordinance and are in general agreement. Mike Morgan asked about an option to allow permits for scout camping. Dan mentioned that there are no public toilet facilities available. Town Manager Don Turner will solicit public input on the draft ordinance.

**g. Benches for Natural Areas:**

Jenna said she has not yet received the delayed benches. They are due in November 2021. Playground equipment has also been delayed. Ben will follow up on our benches. Placement sites are still to be determined due to potential installation challenges. Hoyt Lookout at Eagle Mountain and the Pond View Loop at Milton Town Forest are under consideration.

**h. Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW) Steps Repair:**

Dan said we purchased material for the step repair (between interpretive posts 4 and 5 in our brochure.) Once access permission is obtained, William offered to bring his equipment to the site through the Water Treatment Plant property. Bonnie mentioned a need to remove the old, decayed steps and place signs at trailheads mentioning the construction. Dan said the new base of the steps will include a puncheon that will be raised above the level of the stream. He has the rebar to anchor each step. Kris Dulmer has a saw to cut the rebar. Laurie has the chicken wire to apply to the top of the completed steps for enhanced traction.

Dan said the MCC paid \$1,026.73 for the lumber. After paying \$265 toward the benches, our Balance for FY 2020-2021 is now zero. The RISE grant paid the remaining \$433 for our purchase of two benches. We thanked Jenna (Recreation Department) for paying the cost of shipping with her Recreation order. We have \$288 remaining in the Rise Grant. Dan said that we now have a MCC budget of \$2,000 for FY 2021-2022.

**6. Staff Updates:**

Dan mentioned that Tom Prendergast has not attended recent meetings since assuming his Ranger position at Niquette Bay State Park. William said he will call Tom and ask what his plans are. Dan said we will need to recruit some new members. Jenna suggested a public gathering to advertise for Recreation volunteers as well. William suggested we make a collage of what the MCC and Recreation Department volunteers do and maybe offer a BBQ. Dan said we could post the positions at park trailheads, a good fall project.

Jenna asked who to name as our MCC contact person. Dan's Town contact information will be used. As part of her work on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which reviews town-approved projects before submitting them to the Development Review Board (DRB), Jenna said the VT Gas Distribution line will be working on its Right of Way through the Checkerberry end of the Lamoille Riverwalk. The new gas line would go from there, under the Lamoille River and over to Poor Farm Road on the opposite side of the river. Laurie asked if we could have permission to walk the Right of Way to check for rare or unusual plants. Jenna said she could speak with Cymone about that.

**7. Review of Minutes:**

Bonnie made a MOTION that we accept the MCC minutes of June 22, 2021 as written. William SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION PASSED.

**8. Adjournment:**

William MOVED that we adjourn. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie DiCesare, Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

 Date: 10-26-21  
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

ATTEST: , Milton Town Clerk

