



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:.....Regular Meeting  
Date:.....October 26, 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*

*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; Bonnie Pease.

Members absent: None.

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

Public Present: None.

### 3. Agenda Review:

Bonnie suggested we take a Milton conservation Commission (MCC) group photo (which we did; the photo will be posted on our website.) She also wants to talk about creating an MCC archives. Dan added an update on County Forester Ethan Tapper and the Milton Town Forest (MTF) Forest Management Plan.

### 4. Business:

#### a. Lamoille Riverwalk Natural Resource Inventory Draft (Remy Crettol)

Dan received Remy's Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW) Natural Resource Inventory draft today. Remy has offered us three options:

1. Continue with current agreement with \$1,600 budget but extend the period of performance to June 30, 2022.
2. Apply for a small grant through Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD), with an estimated project cost of \$3,500, but possibly up to \$5,000, with a completion date of Dec. 2022.
3. Apply for a larger grant to hire an environmental consultant at a cost of about \$15,000 to \$20,000.

William suggested we return to our original objective. Jenna and Laurie agreed that this is a good first draft. Bonnie wants to ensure that the primary objective of the inventory is to determine what the LRW land may be used for.

Bonnie MOVED that we accept Remy Crettol's LRW Natural Resource Inventory option #1. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION PASSED.

Dan will contact Remy about our decision and will ask for periodic check-ins before the June 30, 2022 completion date.

William MOVED that we pay Remy Crettol a deposit of \$400 to continue work on the Lamoille Riverwalk Natural Resource Inventory, receivable when the MCC has received an updated project timeline. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION PASSED.

Laurie said she e-mailed her LRW Combined Species List (2016 to present) to Remy for use with his Natural Resource Inventory. Remy will include the names of the species-list participants in his references list.

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

Dan says that the MCC has been invited to submit a full grant application. Planning Director, Cymone Haiju, is requesting updated letters of support. Dan will ask Timber and Stone to update their proposal. Cymone and Dan will meet on Thursday (Oct. 28, 2021) to discuss a Scope of Work Plan.

Jenna said she will be applying for a VT Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (OREC) grant for trail work at Bombardier Park. They already have \$20,000 of capital improvement funding but would also like to connect trails to Cobble Hill and partner with Rick Sharp at Sharp Park. Dan said there may be some competition between the Recreation and MCC grant requests. Jenna will meet with Cymone to decide how to frame the application so there is no project overlap.

Bonnie mentioned a Rise VT grant might be used to start designing the MTF viewing platform. Dan said someone from the Georgia Conservation Commission was asking us who did our trail maintenance as they said our trails are well maintained. (It's primarily the work of MCC volunteers.)

**c. MCC Recruitment:**

Jenna spoke with Rod Moore, a member of the Recreation Commission, who has agreed to help with recruitment and has many ideas on the topic. Laurie will forward a copy of her Front Porch Forum recruitment ad to Jenna so she can post it on Facebook and the Town website with Community News. Bonnie will send a copy of the kiosk poster to Jenna. Bonnie will laminate the copies that are going to the kiosks.

**d. Lamoille Riverwalk Repair and Upcoming Projects:**

Bonnie said that an Islander reporter came to visit the step replacement project on Oct. 16, 2021. William said he has 2x10-foot boards that can be screwed onto the bridge. The step repair project is about a third completed. Metal rebar still needs to be removed. He will bring power tools on the next work day (date to be determined.) Kris offered to help.

Upcoming projects include adding a drainage tube and crossing a low area on the Wildflower Trail at Eagle Mountain and making puncheons for some wet areas on the MTF trails. Dan said he will ask Public Works if they can drop a load of crushed stone at the base of Eagle Mountain with the Cold Spring housing association's permission. Bonnie mentioned that parts of the MTF Ridge Trail are wet and the lowland by post #7 at the LRW will need work as it silts in.

**e. MTF Forest Management Plan (County Forester Ethan Tapper):**

Dan says Ethan Tapper has information to share with us. He invited Ethan to our Nov. 23, 2021 MCC meeting.

**f. Archives:**

Bonnie said that Geoff Plunkett kept a history of Milton Pond until 2003. Bonnie has been keeping a log as well. She would like to ensure that historical data, like information about the creation of the LRW, is not lost.

**5. Nature Notes:**

Kris Dulmer said he found a dead otter on Route 7 near the dam. Dan suggested that we may need a wildlife crossing sign there. Kris also visited Alburg, VT and documented the largest Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) in Vermont. At 16 inches Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) and 25 feet tall, the tree is also a national record. He also saw an Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) with a 74-inch diameter.


**6. Adjournment:**

William MOVED that we adjourn. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie DiCesare, Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

 Date: 11/23/2021  
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2021.

ATTEST: , Milton Town Clerk

