

1 **TOWN OF MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
2 **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

3 **Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

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4 Municipal Building Assessor's Conference Room  
5 43 Bombardier Road ♦ Milton, VT 05468  
6 802.893.1186 ♦ www.miltonvt.org

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8 **1A. CALL TO ORDER**

9 Kinner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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11 **1B. ATTENDANCE**

12 Conservation Members Present:

13 Judith Kinner, Chair; Bonnie Pease; Laurie DiCesare, and Dan Gaherty.

14 CC Members Absent:

15 Jay Maurice.

16 Staff Present:

17 Jacob Hemmerick, Town Planner.

18 Public:

19 Anna Dirkse of the Chittenden County Stream Team and Karen Bates of the VT Dept. of  
20 Environmental Conservation.

21  
22 **2. AGENDA REVIEW**

23 Gaherty asked that a discussion about vegetative clearing near the Lamoille Riverwalk be  
24 added to the discussion. Kinner assigned this item to 5G.

25  
26 **3. PUBLIC INPUT**

27 None.

28  
29 **4. STAFF UPDATE AND COMMISSION ROUNDTABLE**

- 30
- 31 • Hemmerick said that there is still no word about the State's Recreational Trails Program Grant.
  - 32 • Pease highlighted the contents of a recent engineering assessment commissioned by  
33 the Town studying the existing dam at Milton Pond and the Town Forest. The dam is  
34 showing structural defects. Hemmerick said he would send the assessment to the  
35 Commission for their review, and stated that the Public Works Director is soliciting  
36 specific numbers for a possible Capital Improvement Plan request, which is always  
37 subject to a public hearing. Kinner said that the Commission should discuss this at a  
38 future meeting.
  - 39 • Gaherty said he has not heard back from Fellowship of the Wheel after sending up some  
40 follow-up questions. Gaherty invited them to walk a portion of Bombardier Park.  
41 Hemmerick said he would touch base with Philip Galiga and noted that this is their busy  
42 trail maintenance period.
- 43

44 **5. BUSINESS**

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46 **5A. Water Quality and Stormwater Presentation and Discussion**

47 Anna Dirske gave a presentation on Chittenden County Stream Team's stormwater outreach  
48 program, as facilitated by the Conservation District. Milton is one of three outreach communities  
49 in which they aim to conduct outreach programs with local partners. Their standard programs

50 include: rain garden installation in a prominent place, stormwater walks, stream cleanups, and  
51 rain barrel workshops. She asked that the Commission select a preferred program for next  
52 calendar year. Kinner said they would add this to the Agenda.

53  
54 Karen Bates gave an overview of key streams and recent legislative changes at the State level.  
55 She explained that the DEC has tentative concerns about Allen Creek's stream health, for which  
56 initial data is showing stress. She recommended that the Town consider pursuing ERP funds to  
57 undertake a stormwater master plan to ensure that the streams are never deemed impaired.  
58 Repairing impairment caused by poorly designed/managed development (and associated  
59 stormwater infrastructure) often involves expensive municipal undertakings. Bates said that a  
60 stormwater master plan primarily address problems to the current built environment, but does  
61 not address future development. Hemmerick asked if this planning process would involve the  
62 Conservation Commission, and she said that it does not typically involve broad citizen  
63 participation. She explained that it's a technical plan primarily prepared by consultants and  
64 recommended that Hemmerick contact Jim Pease to learn more.

65  
66 Bates added that the DEC would be happy to help inform/facilitate a community conversation  
67 about the Milton Pond Dam and the possible reclassification to remove its designation as a  
68 drinking source, remove the dam, and allow the water level to be dropped to natural conditions.  
69 Pease noted that removal of the dam would be a loss of an important aesthetic resource having  
70 cultural and community significance and would also alter a stable habitat upon which wildlife  
71 depend on.

#### 72 73 **5B. Eagle Mtn. Trail Work Day Recap**

74 Kinner and Gaherty said there is still some work to be done on the purple trail, but the recent  
75 rains have interfered with completion. The purple trail (Wildflower Way) is the only trail that  
76 remains to be blazed. Pease and Kinner said they would coordinate finishing it. The  
77 Commission then discussed observations about the Forest Fire.

#### 78 79 **5C. Eagle Mtn. Trail Kiosk Discussion**

80 The Commission reviewed the content of a draft panel prepared by and to be funded by the  
81 Lake Champlain Land Trust. The CC remarked on the beautiful design, and noted what a great  
82 addition this will be to the natural area. They requested the following edits prior to finalization.

- 83 • Subtitle: remove "wildlife preserve" and replace with "natural area".
- 84 • History: Remove "Hoyt" prior to "generous donation".
- 85 • Clarify Photo Caption: "View of Lake Champlain from the Hoyt Lookout"
- 86 • Animal and Plant Life, Second Paragraph, Second Sentence: Replace with "A large  
87 ecological zone, stretching along the entire western portion of the land, protects  
88 sensitive and endangered plant and animal species that are threatened by human  
89 disturbance."
- 90 • Animal and Plant Life, Third Paragraph, First Sentence: Replace "wildlife refuge" with  
91 "significant habitat"
- 92 • Map: remove "Aerial"
- 93 • Map: The Commission finds that the ecological zone will be given more meaning to  
94 visitors if it buffers around the trails instead of overlapping them, thereby watering down  
95 the significance of the zone. The Commission also finds that the green of the overlay  
96 washes out Mossy Glen and Wildflower Way. These colors may need to be pumped up.
- 97 • Hiking Tours: Remove "Hiking Tour". Replace with "Trails".

- 98 • Hiking Tours, First Sentence: Replace with "The most popular trail is the blue Hoyt
- 99 Lookout Trail, which runs from the Henry Road parking area to a dramatic viewpoint of
- 100 Lake Champlain."
- 101 • Hiking Tours, Second Sentence: Replace "in late April" with "spring".
- 102 • Hiking Tours, Third Sentence: Replace "ravine" with "ledge" and replace "vibrant
- 103 wildflower displays" with "vibrant wildflowers . . ."
- 104 • Photo Caption: Add "View of Eagle Mountain from Lake Champlain"
- 105 • Trail Map: Remove inches on the scale and delete repetitive logos. The CC questioned
- 106 if the Trail Map should be the larger of the two, but valued the aerial view so visitors
- 107 could identify the fields.
- 108 • Rules: Remove "by taking only photographs".
- 109 • Rules: Remove "glass bottles".
- 110 • Rules: Add to end, "Thank you for treading lightly and limiting your impact."
- 111 Hemmerick said that he would forward these to Chris Boget at LCLT.
- 112

113 **5D. Conservation Commission Budget Review**

114 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to use the remaining membership funds to

115 purchase a \$15 Arbor Day Foundation Renewal and a \$50 Association of Conservation

116 Commissions Membership Renewal.

117

118 **5E. Town Forest Map and Brochure**

119 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to **TABLE** this item to the next meeting.

120

121 **5F. Lamoille River Canoe/Kayak Outing**

122 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to **CANCEL** the event due to high, turbulent

123 water resulting from above-average June rains. Commissioner Pease agreed to show up at the

124 arrival time on Saturday to inform anyone who arrives.

125

126 **5G. Lamoille Riverwalk Vegetative Clearing**

127 Gaherty agreed that the item should be tabled due to the time, but stated the Commission

128 should discuss this at a future meeting. The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to

129 **TABLE** the item to the next meeting.

130

131 **V. MINUTES**

132 **MOTION** by Pease to approve Minutes of **May 26, 2015** as presented. **SECOND** by Gaherty.

133 **DISCUSSION:** DiCesare requested an amendment to better describe the terrain conditions at

134 Sunny Hollow. **MOTION** by Pease to approve as amended. **SECOND BY** Gaherty.

135 Unanimously **APPROVED**.

136

137 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

138 **MOTION** to adjourn AT 9:15 p.m. by Pease, **SECOND** by DiCesare

139 Unanimously **APPROVED**.

140

141 **Submitted by**

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145

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Judith Kinner, Chair** /jmh