

TOWN OF MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AGENDA

Municipal Building Community Room
43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

I. Call to Order, Attendance, and Agenda Review

II. Public Input ^(5 Minutes)

III. Staff Report and Commission Roundtable ^(5 minutes)

IV. Business

A. Eagle Mountain Natural Area Kiosk Display ^(20 minutes)

▶ *Review Lake Champlain Land Trust's draft kiosk post design.*

B. Eagle Mountain Natural Area Brochure ^(20 minutes)

▶ *Review and approve final version of brochure.*

C. Establish Goals/Priorities for 2015 ^(45 minutes)

▶ *Define annual goals and assign to the meeting schedule.*

D. 2015 Meeting Schedule ^(15 minutes)

▶ *Adopt a meeting schedule.*

E. Acceptance of Information Technology Use Standards Policy ^(5 minutes)

▶ *Review policy and sign acceptance form.*

V. Approval of Minutes: December 16, 2014 & January 3, 2015 ^(5 minutes)

VI. Adjourn (8:30 p.m.)

Filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Posted in the Municipal Building Lobby, Planning & Economic Development Department, Town's Facebook page, Town's DRB webpage, Middle Road Market, Milton Beverage, and Rene's Discount Beverage. E-mailed to the *Burlington Free Press*, *Milton Independent*, and LCATV.

TOWN OF MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
MEETING MATERIALS

Eagle Mountain Natural Area Kiosk Display

Lake Champlain Land Trust did not submit a draft kiosk design at the time of packet preparation. Chris Boget plans to attend to present a draft version. On a related note, I've asked Ye Olde Design Shoppe in Milton to give us some general cost material ballpark costs for kiosk displays. Recent Trial Register sheets are also attached to give everyone a sense of usage.

Eagle Mountain Natural Area Brochure

The revised brochure content is attached for your review.

Goals/Priorities for 2015

Staff will present summaries of your rankings for discussion. The document that was e-mailed to you is attached for your reference.

2015 Meeting Schedule

A draft calendar is attached for your review, amendment (as needed) and adoption.

Acceptance of Information Technology Use Standards Policy

The Selectboard has adopted a new policy that applies to all Board and Commission Members with Town e-mail. Please prepare any questions you have. Staff requests that you sign the acceptance form.

Minutes

Two sets up Minutes are attached. If you have non-substantive corrections (such as grammar or word usage), feel free to e-mail Staff prior to the meeting.

NOTE: Please use only one entry line per group.

Town of Milton
TRAIL REGISTER

THANK YOU
for signing in!

DATE	NAME(S)	Where are you from? TOWN, STATE	# OF PEOPLE	# OF DOGS	To receive project or volunteer updates, leave us your E-MAIL	OUT (✓)
11/28	Paul A. Godin	Milton VT. 05468 ^{48 NORTH RD}	1	0	Hunting Time	✓
11/29	Emily, Hunter, Caesar	Milton	1	2		✓
11/30	JOHN REED	ST ALBANS, VT	1	0		✓
11/30	ROSE REED	ST ALBANS, VT	1	0		✓
11/30	MATT REED	MIDDLEBURY, CT	1	0		✓
11/30	TRENE REED	MIDDLEBURY, CT	1	0		✓
12/1	Heidi's N' The	Lamesa, CA				
	Beds Kid	N MILBURY, VT				
12/7	F R D	Burlington	2	0	what a find!	
12/7	Britt, Enstrom & Steph Kazen	" "	2	0		
12/8	Emily, Hunter, Caesar	Milton	1	2		✓
12/14	Dave Dale John	Georgie	3	0	Hunting / Thankyou	
12/18	Britta, Kenna, Kiera, Maxton	Milton VT Pittsford VT	2			
12/21	BRENDA JENNINGS	Beebe Hill, Milton	1	1	Daily walks	
12/28	Stevie Kaitia Dube	Essex Jct VT	2	0		

This trail register can help emergency responders and allows the Town's decision-makers to know how many people visit the forest.
www.miltonvt.org

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DATE	NAME(S)	Where are you from? TOWN, STATE	# OF PEOPLE	# OF DOGS	To receive project or volunteer updates, leave us your E-MAIL	OUT (✓)
11/9	Stuwn Joseph Reed	Georgia VT	2	0		
11/9	J. Dyer	Norfolk VT	2	-		✓
11/11	Dave + Bruce	Emx + Jericho	2	1		
13/11/14	T. Sage & Family.	Montreal, QC, CANADA	4			
11/14	Emily, Hunter, Caesar	Milton, VT	1	2		✓
11/15	Jared, Alan, Nancy	Plymouth, MA	3	0		✓
11/15	Keith + Winnie (dog)	Colchester, VT	1	1		
11/16	Steve + Beni	Milton, VT	1	1		✓
11/16	Barbani family ^{or Orso} + Benoit	M. Pk	4	2		
11/21	Emily, Hunter, Caesar	Milton VT	1	2		
11/24	Jage mott	Milton VT	1	0	Saw a BigFoot, pretty sure it was	✓
11/25	Scoby, Hunter, Caesar	MILTON	1	2		
11/25	K + J	Georgia	2	0	SAW A BEAR. GAAAA!!	✓
	Chas, Christon + Baby Emma	New York NY	6		Babies First Hike	
11/28	Karnezos	Colchester VT	4	1		✓

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Eagle Mountain Natural Area

Guide ♦ History ♦ Map



View of Lake Champlain from Hoyt Lookout

Islands from Left: South Hero, Lower Fishbladder, Upper Fishbladder, Grand Isle, North Hero and Savage Island.

Overview

This 226-acre natural area has 2.5 miles of trails and hosts wildlife habitat of statewide significance overlooking Lake Champlain, the sixth largest freshwater lake in the United States. With an elevation of 578 feet, Eagle Mountain is a prominent feature on Milton's shoreline, and Hoyt Lookout provides outstanding, year-round views of the Champlain Islands and the Adirondack Mountains beyond.

History

Over the last century, the property has been used for farming, recreation, logging and sugaring. Flat areas on the eastern side were used as orchards, hayfields and pasture, while the cliffs and ledges on the western side were predominantly used for logging and sugaring.

In 1995, the Lake Champlain Land Trust (LCLT) acquired the southern half of Eagle Mountain as a donation from long-time Milton residents John and Peggy Hoyt. Thanks to numerous funding sources, LCLT later purchased the northern portion and donated both parcels to the Town of Milton in 1998. LCLT permanently conserves the land for future generations by retaining a conservation easement on the land.

Directions to Henry Road Parking

Online Mapping: Type "Henry Rd., Milton, VT" as your destination and continue to the end of the road.

Directions from Village: Go north on US Rt. 7, and turn left (west) onto Lake Rd. Turn left (south) onto Everest Road. Turn right (west) at the next intersection to remain on Everest. Turn right (north) onto Beebe Hill Rd. Turn left (west) onto Henry Rd. Continue to the end.

Directions from I-89 Exit 17: Go west on US Rt. 2, exit at Bear Trap Rd. and turn right (north). Turn left (north) onto Cadreact Rd. Continue (straight) at the Everest Rd. intersection onto Beebe Hill Rd. Turn left (west) onto Henry Rd. Continue to the end.

What to Know Before Starting Out

- ✓ **No restroom facilities are available.**
 - ✓ **Respect the permitted uses.**
 - ✓ **Take out what you bring in.**
 - ✓ **Pets must remain fully under control and shall not disturb natural communities or the experience of other users.**
 - ✓ **Respect neighbors and private property.**
 - ✓ **The cliffs and ledges throughout the area have sensitive habitat. Please remain on trails.**
- ✓ ***Please speak up to ensure that future generations may also enjoy this land.***

Your Experience Matters

If you have any questions, ideas for improvement, would like to get involved or would like to report an incident of concern, please let us know. Your experience matters. Like us on Facebook.

Lake Champlain Land Trust

1 Main Street, Suite 205, Burlington, VT 05401.
802.362.4150. Learn more about the Lake Champlain Land Trust at www.LCLT.org.

Town of Milton Conservation Commission

43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468.
802.893.1186. Learn more about the Milton Conservation Commission at www.miltonvt.org.

Eagle Mountain Permitted Uses

The Town and the Lake Champlain Land Trust strive to preserve the ecological values of the property and enhance the following recreational opportunities:

▶ Hiking

2.5 miles of easy to moderate trails.

▶ Bird Watching

▶ Cross Country Skiing

Unmarked terrain in hayfields by parking lot.

▶ Snowshoeing

▶ Hunting

Licensed, in-season and responsibly.



Eagle Mountain by the Seasons

Spring

Slopes and ledges flourish with spring wildflowers and many migratory birds return. Can you identify a wildflower or bird call?

Summer

Enjoy the long daylight hours hiking through the shade of the forest. Do you feel a breeze from nearby Lake Champlain?

Fall

Be a leaf peeper and watch the woodland's colorful transformation. Does the forest smell like autumn?

Winter

Several trails now offer panoramic views of the surrounding terrain. Can you identify any animal tracks in the snow?

STRATEGIC PLANNING

2015 GOALS

What do you hope to accomplish this year?

MEASURING PRIORITIES

IMPORTANCE

How important would you rate the following items:
Essential (5), High (4), Medium (3), Low (2), Not a Priority (1)

EFFORT

How much time and effort do you expect this task will take:
Sustained (5), High (4), Medium (3), Low (2), Easy Button (1)

TIMING

What time of year should the Conservation Commission taken on this project?
(Ex. March, 3rd Quarter, beginning of the fiscal year, biannually, 2016)

POSSIBLE INITIATIVES

GOVERNANCE

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Annual CC Bylaw Review
			Annual Ethical Guidelines and Open Meeting Law Refresher
			Elect Officers
			Advocate for an update to the Administrative Code to specify CC membership.
			Develop an accessible archive with a complete and well-organized resource & historical library, to support the business of the Commission.
			Long-term strategic planning 5 and 10-year goals.

FINANCES

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Budget for the CC's annual allocation prior to the beginning of the FY (July 1).
			Annual review of Capital Improvement Plan funding for Natural Area projects.
			Consider advocating for a trail improvements reserve account for fundraising & private donations.
			Brainstorm for possible grant applications: LCWF, RTP, VTRANS, etc.

TOWN FOREST

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Amend Town Forest Management Plan to account for new opportunities/realities.

			Open initial conversations with Vermont Mountain Biking Association on how they can help plan for responsible Mountain Biking by 2018
			Discuss Primitive Camping
			Discuss Bove Phasing and New Amenities
			Other:
			Finalize Town Forest Map & Brochure
			Update Town Forest Kiosk w/Maps & Information
			Construct Town Forest Bove Connector Trail & Milton Pond Viewing Platform (if funded by RTP)
			Pursue funding/donations for periodic rest benches Purchase Vermont Trail Ethic signage for Kiosk Pursue funding for interpretive signage
			Other:

LAMOILLE RIVERWALK

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Develop LaMoille Riverwalk Management Plan
			Update LaMoille Riverwalk Trail Map & Brochure
			Install Kiosks on the LaMoille Riverwalk
			Identify Infrastructure Needs and Pursue Funding for Construction
			Re-Install Interpretive Posts and Revive Interpretive Walk
			Other:

EAGLE MOUNTAIN

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Amend Eagle Mountain Management Plan
			Update Eagle Mountain Kiosk w/Maps & Information
			Identify needed signage
			Install Signage & blaze trails.
			Conduct invasive species eradication volunteer day.
			Other:

COLLABORATION/VOLUNTEERISM

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Market the natural areas' potential as an outdoor classroom to Milton Science classes.
			Develop connections with the School's Student Learning Coordinator for volunteer projects.
			Organize trail volunteer event(s): trail maintenance, invasive species removal, volunteer-led programming, etc.
			Cultivate & engage trail volunteers through trail registers and a newsletter.
			Participate in the annual joint meeting with the Selectboard
			Hold joint meetings or hikes with neighboring Conservation Commissions.
			Hold a joint meeting with the Planning Commission.
			Participate in the LaMoille Paddler's Trail project
			Consider Water Quality Monitoring along Allen Creek in

			Cooperation with VTDEC
			Other: _____

NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMMING/OUTREACH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Host natural resource/outdoor recreation interpretive programs. Hikes, Snowshoe, Paddles, Themed Walks
			Host an annual documentary film (winter).
			Participate in Green-Up Day (May).
			Develop a video showcasing the natural areas in town.
			Host guest speakers/authors that may be of interest to the community.
			Attend conferences for professional development. Town Forest Summit, AVCC Conference, etc.
			Conduct site visits in nearby communities to see projects realized by other communities.
			Other:

LAND USE PLANNING/CONSERVATION

Priority	Effort	Timing	
			Develop a trail standards policy for: mapping, way finding, signage, new trail process, etc.
			Develop a plan to link the Recreational Pathway Committee work to conservation, recreation & green infrastructure comprehensive planning.
			Reach out to Catamount Trail Association & Green Mountain Club to learn about recreational easement acquisitions.
			Become familiar with Milton's Comprehensive Plan and Land-Use Ordinances.
			Evaluate Milton's Land Use Regulations to make recommendation to decision-makers on Milton's stormwater standards to improve local water quality and incent modern methods.
			Evaluate Milton's Regulations and consider a riparian buffer ordinance.
			Implement Community-base Planning initiatives suggested by F&W "Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage"
			Conduct inventories of natural resources of interest.
			Consider serving in an advisory role for Development Review.
			Other:

PROPOSED 2015 CONSERVATION COMMISSION CALENDAR

JANUARY 1	NEW YEARS DAY – TOWN HOLIDAY
JANUARY 3	Westford Bog Site Visit in Town Forest
JANUARY 27	Regular Meeting
FEBRUARY 14	Annual Winterfest Snowshoe in Town Forest
FEBRUARY 16	PRESIDENTS DAY – TOWN HOLIDAY
FEBRUARY 24	Regular Meeting
MARCH	<i>Activity TBD</i>
MARCH 24	Regular Meeting
APRIL	<i>Activity TBD</i>
APRIL 28	Regular Meeting
MAY 2	GREEN UP DAY
MAY 25	MEMORIAL DAY – TOWN HOLIDAY
MAY 26	Regular Meeting
JUNE	<i>Activity TBD</i>
JUNE 23	Regular Meeting – Budget for FY 2015 Allocation & Review Strategic Goals
JUNE 30	TERM EXPIRATION: Pease
JULY	APPOINTMENTS BY SELECTBOARD
JULY 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED – TOWN HOLIDAY
MID-JULY	<i>TENTATIVE THANK YOU PICNIC WITH PC & DRB</i>
JULY 14	Special Meeting - RESCHEDULE - Election of Officers
JULY 23	<i>Activity TBD</i>
JULY 28	Regular Meeting REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE TO JULY 14
AUGUST - OCTOBER	<i>TENATIVE ANNUAL MEETING WITH SELECTBOARD</i>
AUGUST	<i>Activity TBD</i>
AUGUST 25	Regular Meeting
SEPTEMBER 7	LABOR DAY – TOWN HOLIDAY
SEPTEMBER	<i>Activity TBD</i>
SEPTEMBER 22	Regular Meeting
OCTOBER	<i>Activity TBD: Town Forest Summit?</i>
OCTOBER 12	COLUMBUS DAY – TOWN HOLIDAY
OCTOBER 27	Regular Meeting
NOVEMBER	<i>Activity TBD: AVCC Summit?</i>
NOVEMBER 11	VETERANS DAY – TOWN HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER 17	Special Meeting - RESCHEDULE
NOVEMBER 24	Regular Meeting REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE TO NOVEMBER 17
NOVEMBER 26	THANKSGIVING DAY –TOWN HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER 27	DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING --TOWN HOLIDAY
DECEMBER	<i>Activity TBD: State Renewable Energy Summit?</i>
DECEMBER 15	Special Meeting - RESCHEDULE
DECEMBER 22	Regular Meeting REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE TO DECEMBER 15
DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE – TOWN HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DAY - TOWN HOLIDAY