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**Town of Milton**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
October 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.  
Lister's Conference Room of the Municipal Building

**MINUTES**

*This meeting immediately followed a joint meeting of the Recreation and Conservation Commissions, hosted by the Recreation Commission.*

**CC Members Present:** Judith Kinner, Chair; Bonnie Pease; and Laurie DiCesare

**CC Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jacob Hemmerick, Town Planner

**Others:** None

**I. Call to Order**

Kinner called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

**II. Agenda Review**

No changes.

**III. Public Input**

None.

**IV. Business**

**A. Upcoming Events**

The Commission discussed the following upcoming events:

♦ TUE, 10/14 – Meeting w/Trail Designer at Town Forest, 2:30 p.m.

*Goal:* Timber & Stone LLC will conduct an initial meeting and discovery; and will present on Accessible Trail Guidelines.

♦ SUN, 10/19 – Site Visit to Hinesburg Town Forest, 10:15 a.m.

*Goal:* Learn from Hinesburg's Management Planning Experience, particularly balancing competing recreational uses.

*Place:* The Commission opted to meet at the Municipal Building at 10:15 a.m. to carpool. Kinner had to cancel due to another conflict. They will then meet the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee at Hinesburg Town Hall at 11:15.

♦ TUE, 10/28 – Regular Meeting of the CC at Municipal Building, 6:30 p.m.,

*Goal:* Line-by-line review of the Management Plan to assess what has been implemented, what is outstanding, and items for dedicated discussion time at future meetings. They will also continue review of the draft Town Forest Map and text.

*Extra:* [Subsequent to this meeting Staff learned that Danielle Owczarski, District Wetlands Ecologist, will also be free to attend this meeting to briefly discuss State Wetland Rules, as they relate to Town Forest development.]

♦ SAT, 11/01 – AVCC Annual Conservation Summit in Montpelier

Commissioners are unavailable, but Hemmerick plans to attend.

♦ 11/07 – Site Visit to Eagle Mtn. at Cold Springs Road Trailhead, 1:00 p.m.

48 Initially proposed for 11/05, Kinner requested that this be moved to 11/7  
 49 *Goals:* Hike trails to review existing trail markings and draft map with proposal for new  
 50 blazing system consistent with the Town Forest.  
 51 *Extra:* On the topic of Eagle Mtn. they talked about the possibility of doing a volunteer  
 52 project to plant cedars that would shield the Cold Springs Rd. trailhead dump site from  
 53 view.  
 54 ♦ MON, 11/17 – Joint Meeting w/Selectboard at Municipal Building, 6:00 p.m.,  
 55 *Goals:* Update governing body on activities and upcoming projects; gather feedback on  
 56 management planning questions.  
 57 ♦ TUE, 11/25 – Regular Meeting of the CC at Municipal Building, 6:30 p.m.,  
 58 *Goals:* Finalize Town Forest Map; Continue Management Plan Review; Finalize Bove  
 59 Connector Trail Design.  
 60 ♦ TUE, 12/16 – Special Meeting of the CC at Municipal Building, 6:30 p.m.,  
 61 The Commission opted to cancel their regular meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> due to the holiday and  
 62 reschedule it for the 16<sup>th</sup>. No agenda items at this time.  
 63 ♦ SAT, 01/10 – Site Visit to Westford Bog at Town Forest, 10:00 a.m.  
 64 *Goal:* Scope and become familiar with the terrain to better understand how the  
 65 Management Plan’s proposed improvements interact with the area; discuss how these  
 66 findings might inform amendments to the Management Plan.  
 67 ♦ SAT, 02/14 – Winterfest Snowshoe at Town Forest, 10:00 a.m.  
 68 Initially proposed for 9:30 a.m., Recreation Staff requested that this be moved back a bit  
 69 so it doesn’t conflict with the Community Breakfast. The CC suggested 10:00 to 12:30.  
 70 *Goal:* Promote the Town Forest and Outdoor Recreation at this community-wide event.  
 71 ♦ Other Winter Programming:  
 72 For the Commission’s winter movie screening, Hemmerick recommended that the  
 73 Commission preview the movie trailer “Play Again” -- about changing recreation patterns  
 74 among youth and the benefits of outdoor recreation in natural areas.  
 75

76 **B. Town Forest Map & Brochure:**

- 77 ♦ The Commission reviewed their assigned sections of the Town Forest brochure text,  
 78 including: a history and overview of the property; description of flora and fauna; and  
 79 trail descriptions. They will return with edits agreed upon. Hemmerick suggested that  
 80 there be a section that invites people to submit comments, as well as a section that  
 81 highlights permitted activities and rules, which he said he would write up.
- 82 ♦ There was discussion about trail names, adding trails not blazed but commonly used  
 83 on the Pease property, shifting the Ridgeline Trail near four corners to follow the  
 84 contour line, and general navigability. Hemmerick said he would do a mock up of the  
 85 changes discussed for secondary review prior to taking it back to the volunteer  
 86 mapper, Hoffmeister, for a final edits.  
 87

88 **C. Budgeting and Capital Improvement Program**

- 89 ♦ Hemmerick explained that the Planning Director has included \$2,500 in the  
 90 Conservation Commission’s budget to fund half of the environmental assessment  
 91 needed to gain development approvals and implement Phase II of the Town Forest  
 92 Management Plan. The other half is proposed by Westford’s Planner for Westford  
 93 Selectboard’s consideration. He explained that this budget request will have to be  
 94 approved by both the Town Manager and Selectboard. Hemmerick also explained that

95 no changes can be made to the Capital Improvement Plan's (CIP) Town Forest  
96 allocations until the Management Plan is updated. That is the document that feeds into  
97 the CIP.  
98

99 **D. Staff Report**

100 Hemmerick gave an update on follow-up items from the last meeting and then shared  
101 some new outdoor recreation and conservation concepts from recent conferences.  
102 There was brief discussion about recruitment, inviting a wetlands specialist to speak, the  
103 design of natural play areas, and mountain biking trail development. While discussing  
104 recruitment, the questions of quorum came up and it was unclear what constitutes a  
105 quorum for a commission without a fixed membership. Kinner has reached out to  
106 Garrity, and Hemmerick is reaching out to School employees for an educational  
107 connection, as well as Boy and Girl Scout parents. Hemmerick also shared that he  
108 hiked the Town Forest with the Chittenden County Forester, who was impressed by the  
109 forest, but not the timber; he advised that the logging trails be mapped. The CC  
110 **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to review their bylaws, and asked that Staff look into the  
111 question of quorum.  
112

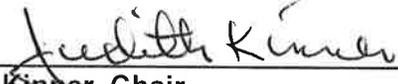
113 **VII. Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2014**

114 DiCesare **MOVED** to approve as presented, **SECONDED** by Pease. Unanimously  
115 **APPROVED**.  
116

117 **VIII. Adjourn**

118 DiCesare **MOVED** to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., **SECONDED** by Pease. Unanimously **APPROVED**.  
119

120 **Submitted by**

121  
122  Date 11/25/14  
123 **Judith Kinner, Chair**  
124 /jmh  
125

126 **MEETING FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

- 127
- 128 • Kinner to investigate availability of cedars (for transplant) to block view of dump site at  
Eagle Mountain Cold Spring Road trailhead.
  - 129 • Commissioners will preview the trailer for *Play Again* to see if the Commission is  
130 interested in buying a copy for public viewing.
  - 131 • Commissioners will edit their sections of the Town Forest Brochure content for the next  
132 review.
  - 133 • Hemmerick will write up rules, permitted uses, and feedback section for Town Forest  
134 Brochure.
  - 135 • Hemmerick will do mock up of new trail map for a secondary review.
  - 136 • Hemmerick will investigate quorums for variable membership boards, and pull the  
137 Bylaws for review.
  - 138 • Kinner will follow-up with Dan Garrity to see if he might be interested in re-joining the  
139 Commission.

**SIGN-IN SHEET FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

DATE: WED., OCT 8, 2014

NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS OR E-MAIL ADDRESS
Judy Kinner, Commissioner		<u>jkinner@miltonvt.org</u>
Bonnie Pease, Commissioner		<u>bpease@miltonvt.org</u>
Laurie DiCesare, Commissioner		<u>ldicesare@miltonvt.org</u>
Jacob Hemmerick, Staff		<u>jhemmerick@town.milton.vt.us</u>

Please leave your e-mail address to receive e-updates as a "Friend of the Forest".  
We'll update you on volunteer opportunities, programs, and relevant conservation news.