

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

3 **Special Meeting**

4 **Monday, February 9, 2015**

5 Municipal Building Community Room
6 43 Bombardier Road ♦ Milton, VT 05468
7 802.893.1186 ♦ www.miltonvt.org

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9 **CC Members Present:** Judith Kinner, Chair; Bonnie Pease; and Dan Gaherty.

10 **CC Members Absent:** Laurie DiCesare and Jay Maurice

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

12 **Others:** Chris Boget, Executive Director of the Lake Champlain Trust (LCLT)

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14 **I. Call to Order, Attendance, Agenda Review**

15 Kinner called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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17 **II. Public Input**

18 None.

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20 **III. Staff Update and Commission Roundtable**

21 The Commission discussed the upcoming Town Forest Snowshoe hike as part of Winterfest.
22 Pease suggested a path to the viewpoint; the Commission agreed to the route. Hemmerick
23 suggested that someone arrive early to ensure efficient parking. He added that if there's a
24 larger group and there's interest in a longer hike, they could divide into two groups. Pease
25 shared that Fish and Wildlife recently published a new Habitat Management Guide for
26 Landowners.

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28 **IV. Business**

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30 **A. Eagle Mountain Natural Area Kiosk Display**

31 Boget presented a draft display for the kiosk at Eagle Mountain. It includes historical, natural
32 resource, and way-finding elements. Boget stated that the design can be produced as an
33 aluminum sign for \$130 from Voss signs. There was some concern about space for postings,
34 such as hunting seasons and information. The Commission and Boget discussed the duplicate
35 maps depicted on the panel, and discussed ways to create parallels between the two maps and
36 brochure content. Hemmerick inquired if the aluminum would allow new vinyl coverings for
37 subsequent updates and asked if there is any content that would become dated. Pease
38 suggested a QR code for a direct link to the Podcast walk. Boget noted declining use of QR
39 codes. Kinner inquired if LCLT had data on the number of people that access the podcast.
40 Boget suggested making a separate brochure to have the Podcast content in a visual format.
41 Kinner asked that Boget to send the Commission the document in PDF format so they can read
42 the content prior to approval. Boget agreed, but cautioned that changes can take significant
43 formatting time. Boget asked Hemmerick to make further edits to the fourth draft of the tri-fold
44 Brochure and Map.

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46 The Commission also discussed a spring invasive removal day last discussed at the Eagle
47 Mountain Site Visit with LCLT. Boget said that this would best be held in Mid-October when
48 honeysuckle, invasive evergreens, and buckthorn are the only plants with leaves remaining. He
49 recommended planning 1 volunteer day per year, for 5 years, to knock down the populations.

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 51 Chris also suggested that the Town pull a copy of a Boundary Line Adjustment that occurred
 52 along the northern property in 2011, and there was discussion about ensuring that the boundary
 53 markings are maintained.

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 55 **B. Eagle Mountain Natural Area Brochure**

56 The Commission suggested some small, final edits and approved the brochure as final by
 57 UNANIMOUS CONSENT. Hemmerick will finalize the edits, make the document available
 58 online, and the Commission will discuss printing options at a subsequent meeting.

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 60 **C. Establish Goals/Priorities for 2015**

61 In January of 2015, the full CC membership scored approximately 65 possible initiatives to
 62 identify their priorities for the upcoming calendar and fiscal years. They also ranked the level of
 63 effort involved and suggested timing for implementation.

64
 65 The top 10 highest ranked priorities, as ranked by the Commission, are shown below. The high
 66 priorities that also appear on the top-10 high-effort list are indicated in the HE column. The high
 67 priorities that also appear on the top-10 low-effort list, are indicated in the LE column. Where
 68 rank is shared, the priorities came out with the same average score. The Commission
 69 UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED to TABLE further discussion of this item to the February 24,
 70 2015 Meeting to allow the full membership to participate in this important decision.

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Top 10 Priorities by Ranking of Average Score	Rank	HE	LE
Town Forest Connector Trail Construction	1	X	
Green Up Day Participation	1	X	
Town Forest Management Plan Amendment	2	X	
Town Forest Kiosk Content Update	2		
CC Budget Planning	3		X
Finalize Town Forest Brochure & Map	3	X	
Update Eagle Mountain Kiosk Content	3	X	
Evaluate Way-Finding Signage Needs at Eagle Mountain	3	X	
Evaluate Town Forest Phasing/ Amenities (in Mgmt. Plan)	4	X	
Research Grant Applications and Funding Sources	5	X	
Host Hikes, Snowshoes, Paddles, Themed Walks	5	X	
Provide Input to Capital Improvement Plan	6		X
Amend Eagle Mountain Management Plan	6	X	
Organize Volunteer Events	7	X	
Conduct Natural Resource Inventories in Milton	7	X	
Develop Online CC Archive w/History & Resources	8	X	
Develop Long-Term Strategic Plan for Commission	8		X
Pursue Funding for RF Connector Trail Amenities: i.e. Benches	8	X	
Identify Lamoille Riverwalk Infrastructure Needs & Funding	8	X	
Install Way-Finding Signage & Mark Trails at Eagle Mountain	8	X	
Conduct Invasive Species Eradication at Eagle Mountain	8	X	
Attend Joint Meeting w/Selectboard	8		X

Install Kiosks at each End of Lamoille Riverwalk	9		X
Engage Volunteers / Develop Newsletter	9		X
Collaborate w/Neighboring Conservation Commissions	9		X
Re-Install Interpretive Posts at Lamoille Riverwalk	10	X	
Attend Conferences for Professional Development	10		X
Evaluate Land-Use Regs for Stormwater Management	10	X	

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D. 2015 Meeting Schedule

The Commission UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED to TABLE adopting the 2015 Meeting Schedule and assigning the priorities to the calendar to the February 24, 2015 Meeting to allow the full membership to participate in this important decision.

E. Acceptance of Information Technology Use Standards Policy

There were no questions on the policy. Hemmerick handed out the policy acceptance forms, which were signed by Kinner, Pease & Gaherty. These will be kept on record by Human Resources.

V. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 2014 and January 3, 2015

Kinner requested that a superfluous "was" be removed, and requested that the specific mapping resources be named in the December 16, 2014 Minutes. Pease MOVED to approve both Minutes as amended, SECOND by Gaherty. Unanimously APPROVED.

VIII. Adjourn.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by

Judith Kinner Date 3/26/15
Judith Kinner, Chair /jmh

SIGN-IN SHEET FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2015

NAME (PRINT)	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS OR E-MAIL ADDRESS
Judy Kinner, Commissioner		On file
Bonnie Pease, Commissioner		On file
Laurie DiCesare, Commissioner		On file
Jay Maurice, Commissioner		On file
Dan Gaherty, Commissioner		On file
Jacob Hemmerick, Staff		On file
Chris Beget		chr3@clt.org
✓		

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.