

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

3 **Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

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

7
8 **CC Members Present:** Judith Kinner, Chair; Bonnie Pease; Laurie DiCesare and Dan Gaherty

9 **CC Members Absent:** Jay Maurice

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

11 **Others:** None

12
13 **I. Call to Order, Attendance, Agenda Review**

14 Kinner called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

15
16 **II. Public Input**

17 None.

18
19 **III. Business**

20
21 **A. 2015 Meeting Schedule**

22 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to the 2015 meeting schedule as presented.

23 The schedule varies from the Commission's regular meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month
24 by moving the July 28 meeting to July 14; the November 24 meeting to November 17; and the
25 December 22 meeting to December 15. There were no meeting dates during which anticipated
26 absences would leave the Commission without a quorum.

27
28 The Commission further **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to following additional outing/activity
29 dates:

30
31 May 1 Dump Site Cleanup and Screening Project at the Eagle Mountain Natural Area
32 Cold Spring Road Trailhead / Sign Need Evaluation
33 May 2 Green Up Day Participation -- Information Table (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
34 June 6 Eagle Mtn. Blazing, Trail Maintenance, and Sign Installation
35 July 25 Arrowhead Lake Paddle led by DiCesare from 104A Access (10 a.m. - noon)
36 Rain Date: 7/26 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
37 June 20 Canoe/Kayak Outing Between Milton Falls & Peterson Dam (10 a.m. to noon)

38
39 **B. Goals/Priorities for 2015**

40 The Commission reviewed their top 10 rankings for upcoming initiatives/priorities, discussing
41 what could/would be involved with each task, and assigned them to the calendar as follows:

42
43 Spring Eagle Mountain Kiosk Content Update with Lake Champlain Land Trust
44 March Conservation Commission FY15 and 16 Budget Planning
45 March Town Forest Map and Brochure Update
46 April Green Up Day Participation Planning
47 April Town Forest Kiosk Content Update
48 April Attend Joint Meeting with Recreation Commission & Fellowship of the Wheel
49 May Evaluate Way Finding Signage Needs at Eagle Mountain

| | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 50 | June | Blaze Trails and Install Way Finding Signage at Eagle Mountain |
| 51 | Summer | Town Forest Management Plan Review, Possible Amendment |
| 52 | August | Identify Lamoille Riverwalk Infrastructure Needs |
| 53 | September | Provide Input on the Capital Improvement Plan |
| 54 | Fall | Town Forest Connection Trail Construction |
| 55 | October | Attend Joint Meeting w/Selectboard |
| 56 | October | Attend Joint Meeting w/Recreation Commission |
| 57 | | |
| 58 | Ongoing | Develop Online CC Archive of Resources |
| 59 | As Needed | Research Grant Opportunities |
| 60 | As Needed | Collaborate with Neighboring Conservation Commissions |
| 61 | As Needed | Attend Conference for Professional Development |
| 62 | Seasonal | Host Hikes/Walks/Paddles & Organize Volunteer Events |
| 63 | | |
| 64 | 2016 | Eagle Mountain Management Plan Review, Possible Amendment |
| 65 | 2016 | Develop Long-Term Strategic Plan for Commission |
| 66 | 2016-17 | Evaluate Natural Resource Mapping in Preparation for Comp. Plan Update |
| 67 | 2016-17 | Evaluate Recreational Mapping in Preparation for CP Update |

68
69 Additionally:

- 70 • Kinner informed the Commission that GMP Manager, Mike Nichols, may be able to
- 71 install a kiosk at the Richie Ave. Lamoille Riverwalk trailhead.
- 72 • The Commission opted against doing a newsletter.
- 73 • The Commission discussed water quality testing of Arrowhead Lake and Allen Brook
- 74 and decided that there wasn't enough bandwidth for the rigors of scientific sampling.
- 75 DiCesare is interested in learning more about invasive aquatic removal at Arrowhead
- 76 Lake.
- 77 • The Commission agreed to invite a WNRCD Staff Member to a meeting to talk about
- 78 water quality.
- 79 • Hemmerick also shared that the Fellowship of the Wheel, a Mountain Biking organization
- 80 in Chittenden County, is interested in meeting with the Commission; he suggested that
- 81 the Commission invite FOTW for the spring joint meeting with the Recreation
- 82 Commission. The Commission consented.

83
84 **C. Information Technology Policy Acceptance**

85 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to **TABLE** this item until next meeting when

86 everyone is present.

87
88 **IV. Staff Report & Commission Roundtable**

89
90 ***Lamoille River Paddlers Trail***

91 The Commission briefly discussed the prior night's presentation on the Lamoille River Paddler's

92 Trail Initiative. A steering committee is spearheading the effort with the VT River Conservancy

93 acting as the fiscal agent. They have identified public properties along the river as well as

94 portage routes, and potential campsites (at 5 mile intervals); the campsites would be isolated

95 and accessible only by the river. The meeting was attended by outdoor recreation enthusiasts

96 and representatives from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Colchester

97 Conservation & Recreation Commissions, Fairfax Recreation Commission, Johnson Planning

98 Commission, Milton Conservation Commission, Milton Recreation Dept., Milton Planning

99 Commission, Green Mountain Power, Agency of Natural Resources, and the River

100 Conservancy. The attendees discussed short, medium and long-term priorities -- as well as
101 guiding principles. The Steering Committee will begin reaching out to landowners, pursuing
102 easements, funding and partnerships with local communities.
103

104 ***Eagle Mountain Natural Area Kiosk***

105 The Commission requests that the Lake Champlain Land Trust make the revisions concluded
106 upon at a prior meeting, and then send it back for a final review of the revised product.
107

108 Requested revisions include:

- 109 • Do not hyphenating "area";
- 110 • Remove "alike" under explore other trails;
- 111 • Add Cold Spring Road access;
- 112 • Mimic trail colors on satellite image;
- 113 • Create header for trail map;
- 114 • List rules as shown in Commission's brochure;
- 115 • Mention Husky's involvement in property acquisition;
- 116 • Delete second 1998 in mention of VHCB.
117

118 Hemmerick said that a sign permit will be needed, but fees are waived for the Town.
119

120 They also discussed the relocation of the Champlain Byways sign from the Cold Spring Road
121 Access to the Henry Road Access, but concluded to leave it where it is for the time being, due
122 to the labor involved.
123

124 **V. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2015**

125 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to **TABLE** the Minutes.
126

127 **VIII. Adjourn.**

128 **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:15 by DiCesare.

129 **SECOND** by Gaherty.

130 Unanimously **APPROVED**.
131

132 **Submitted by**

133
134 Judith Kinner Date 3/20/14
135
136 **Judith Kinner, Chair** /jmh
137

138 **Follow-up Items:**

- 139 • Finalize EM Trail Map
- 140 • Check with PW to ensure they can pick up Green Up Bags on Cold Spring Rd. for dump
141 site cleanup; also inquire about wood chips to screen dump site.
- 142 • Ask Finance for CC Budget for March meeting
- 143 • Follow-up with Laurie about Green Up day food.
- 144 • Add Biofinder & ANR Atlas to CC Page, and fix Lamoille spelling.
- 145 • Touch Base with Kym & Ben to talk about joint CC/RC Meeting.
- 146 • Contact FOTW re: Joint Meeting with RC
- 147 • Contact WNRCD to see what their availability is.
- 148 • Contact LCLT requesting EM Kiosk design revisions.
- 149 • Begin TF Trail Map/Brochure design.

SIGN-IN SHEET FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: FEB 24, 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 |
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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.