

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

3 **Tuesday, April 28, 2015**

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

7
8 ***Bi-Annual Meeting of the Conservation and Recreation Commissions***
9

10 **Conservation Members Present:**

11 Judith Kinner, Chair; Bonnie Pease; Laurie DiCesare, Dan Gaherty, and Jay Maurice.

12 **CC Members Absent:**

13 None.

14 **Recreation Commission Members Present:**

15 John Lindsay, Cynthia Dowling and Betsy Hoffmiester.

16 **RC Members Absent:**

17 Sharon Radke and Matthew Tenny

18 **Staff Present:**

19 Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Coordinator; Ben Nappi, Assistant Recreation Coordinator, and
20 Jacob Hemmerick, Town Planner

21 **Others:**

22 Rich Casrine, Tina Centofante, Philip Galiga, Mickey Stone, and Steve Fischer

23
24 **I. Call to Order, Attendance, Agenda Review**

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

26
27 **II. Public Input**

28 None.

29
30 **III. Business**

31
32 **A. Inter-Commission Update and Discussion**

33 The Conservation Commission shared their update first, highlighting the following activities:

- 34 • Funded a professional trail design for the main trail in and out of the Town Forest with a
35 \$600 grant from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. This design
36 was used as a basis for a Recreational Trails Program grant application for \$67,000 in
37 trail improvements with \$15,000 in local funding. If the grant is awarded, then
38 construction will begin in the fall.
- 39 • Completed a new trail map for Eagle Mountain Natural Area with color-coded trails for
40 easier navigation. The Commission will mark the trails with these colors in June, and is
41 awaiting kiosk content design from Lake Champlain Land Trust for a kiosk update.
- 42 • Working to secure funding for the construction of trail kiosks at both ends of the Lamoille
43 Riverwalk, and to replace the interpretive numbered posts (corresponding to a brochure
44 and map) that have been vandalized.
- 45 • Will participate in Green Up Day with an information table as well as a targeted clean-up
46 of a former dump at Eagle Mountain Natural Area.
- 47 • Hosted and will continue to host several outdoor recreation/natural resource
48 interpretation events.

- 49 • Plans to undertake a review of the Town Forest Management Plan for possible
50 amendment by the Selectboard.
- 51 • Will provide input on the Capital Improvement Plan's funding for continued support of the
52 Town Forest Management Plan implementation.

53

54 The Recreation Commission shared their update, highlighting the following activities:

- 55 • Will host the Giant Pumpkin Growing contest again this growing season.
- 56 • Continues to focus on improvements to Bombardier Park, including the near-term
57 addition of a dog park.
- 58 • Promoting the Great American Backyard Campout on June 27th, which raises funds for
59 the national wildlife funding.
- 60 • Had a successful Winterfest.
- 61 • Continues to forward programming.

62

63 The Commissioners were favorable to a Bombardier Park trail map update similar to Eagle
64 Mountain, and DiCesare expressed an interest in Bombardier Park construction debris cleanup
65 as well as support for the creation of an unmowed buffer zone between the woods and field for
66 wildlife habitat.

67

68 **B. Mountain Biking in Milton and Fellowship of the Wheel Partnership**

69

70 Fellowship of the Wheel (FOTW) Board members Tina Centofante, Philip Galiga, Mickey Stone,
71 and Steve Fischer introduced their non-profit mountain biking organization highlighting that their
72 work has resulted in 100 miles of trails in Chittenden County. Their goal is to build more and
73 better trails for people to use. They provided a handout with their mission, trail building
74 principles and contact information, and presented a well-prepared PowerPoint presentation.

75

76 Hemmerick presented a Memo framing the Planning basis for the meeting, and FOTW
77 explained that they work to create multi-use trails primarily designed for mountain biking use,
78 but equally usable by hikers and walkers. They stated that they have successfully collaborated
79 with many other communities to build trails on municipal land, and they are interested in helping
80 to develop trails in Milton.

81

82 Dowling arrived at 7:15 p.m.

83

84 The Commissions asked a variety of questions and discussed the merits of the Town Forest
85 versus Bombardier Park location, or land owned by the Town near the Lamoille Riverwalk. The
86 Commission found that Bombardier Park would offer the best access in proximity to the majority
87 of residents and could serve a lower-risk proving ground for a private/public partnership
88 between the Town and FOTW. The Commissions were particularly receptive to trail
89 development appealing to youth and beginners, though acknowledged that more expert
90 mountain biking trails could serve as an important economic development factor.

91

92 The Commissions were unsure how to best proceed, and **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to
93 have Commissioner Gaherty evaluate Bombardier Park and other FOTW sites; determine
94 FOTW's design and partnership interests; identify local stakeholders for input; examine
95 partnership models that have worked with other communities; and define the scope of a
96 potential trail. Gaherty will return with a recommendation for consideration by both
97 Commissions for presentation to the Selectboard, after consultation with FOTW.

98

99 **C. 5/1 Eagle Mountain Cleanup and Signage Needs Identification**

100
101 The CC **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to meet from 9:30 to 2:00 p.m. at Cold Spring Rd.
102 Bonnie said she would provide construction bags. Hemmerick stated that Public Works would
103 pick up the bags.
104

105 **D. 5/2 Green Up Day**

106 The Commission discussed Green Up Day preparations at the park pavilion. DiCesare reported
107 that she secured the donation of a condiments from Hannaford Market. The Commission
108 thanks DiCesare and she said she would send a thank you not to Hannaford.
109

110 **E. Lamoille Riverwalk Interpretive Post Quotes**

111 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to table this item.
112

113 **F. Town Forest Map/Brochure Content**

114 The Commission **UNANIMOUSLY CONSENTED** to table this item.
115

116 **IV. Staff Report & Commission Roundtable**

117 Staff gave a brief update of Planning Department activities.
118

119 **V. Minutes**

120 **MOTION** by Pease to approve Minutes of March 24, 2015 as presented. **SECOND** by Maurice.
121 Unanimously **APPROVED**.
122

123 **VIII. Adjourn.**

124 **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. by Gaherty, **SECOND** by Maurice
125 Unanimously **APPROVED**.
126

127 **Submitted by**

128
129
130 _____ **Date** _____
131 **Judith Kinner, Chair** /jmh
132