

Milton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes Nov. 9, 2016

Meeting Type: Special Meeting
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Recreation Dept.
Address: 43 Bombardier Rd., Milton, VT 05468
Contact: 802.893.1186
Website: www.miltonvt.org

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Dan Gaherty, Chair; Judy Kinner, Vice-chair; Laurie DiCesare, Clerk;
Bonnie Pease.

Staff Absent: Jeffrey Castle, Town Planner.

Public Present: None.

3. AGENDA REVIEW

Dan added a discussion on Draft Application for a Natural Resources Planning Internship.
New meeting time with Jeff proposed for Monday Nov. 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. Full discussion of Agenda items 5A, 5B, 5C and 5E tabled until that meeting.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None.

5. BUSINESS

5(B). Wetland Permit for Town Forest

Bonnie said Jeff was to let us know if the original wetland path along the property line was grandfathered in (and therefore less expensive than cutting through the pine trees.) Dan said we will need to know about the size of ADA-required pull-offs. Bonnie said Vermont Wetlands Specialist Brock Freyer wondered why we continue to mow the field once a year as we could just let the area return to forest. Laurie suggested we continue with once-a-year mowing to maintain field habitat for wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, foxes, deer, rabbits and other small mammals. Dan said a tractor would need yearly access for mowing. Bonnie said we would also need a 6-foot trail width to allow emergency vehicle access.

Meeting with Recreation Commission member Erin Demers, a Civil Engineer, was set for Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Milton Town Forest (MTF) parking lot to advise the MCC on engineering aspects of the possible trail sites.

5(C). Grant Opportunities for Lamoille River Walk and Town Forest Signs

Judy said the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application deadline is Dec. 1, 2106. Patrick Pfeifer, Project Manager for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) will do a Lamoille River Walk (LRW) site visit. In June, Bonnie said she asked Public Works to repair the bridge near the Checkerberry trail entrance as posts are rotted out and boards are missing. In the Fall, Dustin asked his team to take measurements. Bonnie will e-mail Dustin that we are applying for the VYCC grant. Dan will help write the pre-application grant. Bonnie wants rails well supported. Dan wants a materials list from Patrick. Judy said Patrick will e-mail her and Jeff. Bonnie has photos that will document the completion of the LRW sign installation, as well as those at Eagle Mountain. Adding some signs and reblazing the trail would be helpful

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as Jake mentioned the trail is still a challenge to follow from the Checkerberry end. Dan mentioned that routed signs cost \$40 each.

Bonnie says about 21 signs are needed for the MTF but we could start with the most important ones for the first year. We need to do a walk-through of the LRW to see where signs are needed for way-finding. Dan wondered if we should combine the LRW and MTF in one grant or maybe apply to the RTP for additional funding. Judy suggested using another min-grant for signage.

Dan said Jeff is trying to look up the history of the Town Forest Connector Trail. Bonnie said she would look through her photos for any that might be helpful.

Judy spoke with someone from Lake Champlain Land Trust about the aluminum signs at Eagle Mountain. They bought signs from VOSSsigns.com for the kiosk maps for Henry Road at about \$140 each. We want similar signs for the MTF. Bonnie said the Cold Spring Rd. kiosk is not big enough for the 3x3 ft. VOSS signs. Judy will measure the old Cold Springs wooden map to see what reduced size aluminum trail map would fit there (to cover the incorrect old map board.)

Judy called Mike Nichols at Green Mountain power who said he will check on a kiosk he may have available for use at the Ritchie Ave. end of the LRW.

5(F). Natural Resources Planning Internship

Dan received a draft description of the Natural Resources Planning linternship from Jake. Phase I: Current Internship: Ads out Nov. 15; Interviews and hire by Dec. 15, 2016. Intern would start Jan. 4, 2017.

Phase II: Perennial Internship: Intern would start mid-May 2017.

The Intern would focus on best practices in Stormwater Management and include a training project in June and work with the MCC to identify preferred goals and technologies. Project deliverables would include an advisory report on stormwater issues to the Town of Milton from both the Intern and MCC.

We had a discussion around our ability to commit to assisting on stormwater projects with only 4 members on our Commission. We are currently very busy with our work on grant applications and trail projects (Eagle Mountain, LRW and MTF) and anticipate work on the re-alignment and mapping of Bombardier Park trails this year.

Dan will discuss our comments and concerns about our possible role in stormwater management with Jake.

6. MINUTES

Judy: MOTION to accept amended minutes of 9.27.2016. Laurie: Seconded.
MOTION PASSED.

Bonnie: MOTION to adjourn. Judy: Seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Minutes approved by the conservation Commission this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Dan Gaherty, chair

Draft filed with the Town Clerk this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Filed with the town Clerk this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk on Nov. 14, 2016.