



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:..... **Regular Meeting** (4th Tuesday of each month)
Date:..... **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**
Time:..... **6:30 p.m.**
Place:..... **Municipal Building Community Room**
Address:..... **43 Bombardier Road Milton, VT 05468**
Contact:..... **(802) 893-1186**
Website:..... **www.miltonvt.org**

MEETING MINUTES

*The Conservation and Recreation Commissions hold a joint meeting on a bi-annual basis, spring & fall.
This is a regular Conservation Commission meeting and a special Recreation Commission meeting.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

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

CC Members Absent: None

Recreation Commission Members Present: Erin Demers, John Lindsay, Sharon Radtke.

RC Members Absent: Betsy Hoffmeister, Cyndi Dowling

Staff Present: Kym Duchesneau, Recreation Coordinator; Ben Nappi, Assistant Recreation Coordinator; and Jeffrey Castle, Town Planner

Public Present: Holly Kreiner

3. AGENDA REVIEW

None

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Holly Kreiner, of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District was present to share information and request volunteers for the upcoming Connecting the Drops 4.0 rain barrel display and workshop which will be held in Milton next month. A display will be set up at the Milton Farmers Market, next to Hannaford's from June 9th - July 11th. A rain barrel workshop will be held in conjunction with the Milton Freedom Fest on June 25th from 3-4 pm. At the workshop, participants will learn how to construct and install a rain barrel, and take home the barrel that they create. Holly is looking for volunteers to help clean and prep the barrels in the couple of days leading up to the workshop. There is also a need to coordinate the transport and storage of the barrels prior to the workshop.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6(A). Inter-Commission Walk & Talk in Bombardier Park

1 The Conservation and Recreation Commissions took a walk around Bombardier Park to discuss
2 needs and opportunities for the Park. After the walk, the following observations and ideas were
3 shared:

- 4 • There are concerns about park maintenance methods. Opportunities for encouraging a
5 healthy ecosystem, preventing spread of disease, and encouraging increased wildflower and
6 animal habitat include:
 - 7 ○ establishment of a buffer strip between recreation fields and the forest to encourage
8 wildflower growth,
 - 9 ○ establishment of a buffer around ponds and streams to increase insect and animal
10 habitat,
 - 11 ○ mindful trimming of brush and trees,
 - 12 ○ trimming or removal of damaged vegetation to prevent spread of disease,
 - 13 ○ designation of locations for storage of debris, equipment and materials to reduce
14 encroachment on existing vegetation.
- 15 • The creation of a 'best management practices' document for the park would be helpful in
16 steering future maintenance and management practices.
- 17 • Need for a trail register at trailhead.
- 18 • New Bombardier property may have great opportunity for future picnic area and could be
19 coupled with use of the existing barn.
- 20 • Need for a park map which should be designed to be similar in design to existing Town
21 Forest and Eagle Mountain maps.
- 22 • Better wayfinding signage for trails and disc golf course.
- 23 • Spray paint on trees in disc golf course should eventually be painted over with 'tree colored'
24 paint.
- 25 • Japanese knotweed is found in the park, but the proper removal would likely need the help
26 of a specialist.
- 27 • There is a large area where trees have been cut down for a chainsaw training located at the
28 future dog park site. The trees have been left where they fell.

29
30 Further discussions about general trail maintenance and demarcation took place.

31
32 The Conservation Commission shared their progress on the Lamoille River Walk and Eagle
33 Mountain Recreational Trails Program mini-grant.

34
35 Future project that were of interest included:

- 36 • The acquisition of more future grants for trail bridges along the Lamoille River Walk.
- 37 • The acquisition of additional tick informational signs for existing trail heads.
- 38 • Explore possible trail on the Husky property
- 39 • Explore boat launch access to Arrowhead Lake in Milton.

40 41 **6(B). Recreational Trails Program Mini-Grant Update**

42
43 The Commissioners shared that four of the Lamoille River Walk number posts have been installed.
44 Four more remain to be installed. Another work day will be scheduled to continue work. Two of

1 the Eagle Mountain signs have been installed on existing posts. The remaining signs will be
2 installed this summer. Great progress has been made.

3
4 **6(C). Town Forest Major Recreational Trails Program Grant Update**

5
6 Castle reported that he has received verbal approval from the Town Manager to incur expense for
7 the grant project. The first item will be the wetland delineation. He will be presenting to the
8 Selectboard on June 6 about the status of the project. The wetland delineation will be scheduled as
9 soon as possible.

10
11 **6(D). Green Up Day Debrief**

12
13 The Commissioners briefly talked about the outcomes and success of Green Up Day. 206 volunteers
14 participated, 2.16 tons of trash, 0.84 tons of metal, and 202 tires (2.5 tons) were collected. Laurie has
15 drafted a thank you letter to Hannaford's for their generous donations. Judy is completing a letter
16 to be submitted for publication in the Milton Independent. Castle has completed the numbers
17 reporting for Green Up Vermont.

18
19 **6(E). Connecting the Drops 4.0: Rain barrel display and workshop**

20
21 This item was covered at public forum. The Commissioners determined that individual
22 participation is encouraged, but no formal commitment from the Commission is necessary at this
23 time.

24
25 Laurie shared that she led a guided walk in Westford that was very successful. She talked with
26 Westford Recreation about leading a work in the Milton Town Forest for them, but they are unable
27 to run programs outside of Westford. She was given contacts for the Westford Conservation
28 Commission, and would like to organize a group outing into the Town Forest. It was determined
29 that the fall may be the best time.

30
31 Judy has made contact Georgia Mountain Community Wind about potentially hosting a
32 Conservation Commission lead hike on Georgia Mountain. Emma Allen, who coordinates the
33 yearly open house, has suggested that a hike may fit well with the Open House in the Fall, allowing
34 visitors to hike up if desired. Further contact will be made with Harrison Concrete, the owners of
35 the site, about permission to access the property.

36
37 The next meeting will be held on June 28th. The July meeting has been canceled and the August
38 meeting has been rescheduled to August 9th.

39
40 **8. MINUTES of April 26, 2016**

41 Pease MOVED to approve the Minutes of April 26, 2016, SECOND by DiCesare. APPROVED (4-0).

42
43 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

1 Gaherty motioned for the meeting adjournment at 9:32 p.m., SECOND by Pease, APPROVED
2 unanimously (4-0).
3

4 **Minutes approved by the Commission this _____ day of _____, 2016.**
5
6
7

8 **Judith Kinner, Chair** _____ /jwc
9

10 **Draft filed with the Town Clerk this _____ day of _____, 2016.**
11

12 **Filed with the Town Clerk this _____ day of _____, 2016.**
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