



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:..... **Regular Meeting**  
Date:..... **August 23, 2022**  
Time:..... **6:30 p.m.**  
Place:..... **Community Room**  
Address:..... **43 Bombardier Road, Milton**  
Contact:..... **(802) 893-1186**  
Website:..... **www.miltonvt.gov**

## MEETING MINUTES

*Dan Gaherty, Chair William Pikul as Vice-chair Laurie DiCesare, Clerk Bonnie Pease, Member Pamela Sandoval, Member*

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaherty at 6:46 p.m.

### 2. Attendance:

Members Present: Dan Gaherty, Laurie DiCesare, Bonnie Pease and Pamela Sandoval

Members absent: William Pikul

Staff Present: Jenna Eugair (Milton Recreation Director), Kris Dulmer (Tree Warden / MCC Liaison)

Public Present: Irene Wrenner.

### 3. Agenda Review:

Laurie added Bombardier Park pond. Bonnie added Trail Register.

### 4. Business:

**a. Election of Officers:** Dan suggested we table this until all members are present. All members agreed.

**b. Budget Report:** Dan said that our fiscal year 2021-2022 ended June 30. We receive \$2,000 per year, spent \$1,288.95 and currently have a balance of \$811.05. A special meeting was held on June 8, 2022 to approve the purchase materials for trail work at Eagle Mountain Natural Area. Dan said this purchase was intended to go on our 2021-2022 budget but apparently was billed to 2022-2023 instead. Dan will talk with Jackie Dodge about correcting this.

**c. Milton Town Forest (MTF) Management Plan:** Dan said that County Forester Ethan Tapper presented his proposed MTF Management Plan to the Select Board on July 18. Bonnie, William and Jenna attended. Ethan pointed out challenges with deer over-browsing and non-native earthworms reducing the forest leaf litter. Kris said that Ethan had recently won a national award for his County Forester work.

**d. Milton Town Forest ADA Trail Project:** Dan reported that the Town of Milton has agreed to use some federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for toward the completion of our ADA Trail project. Bonnie asked if there had been any response to our RTP grant proposal. Dan said "No." Dan said permits will be needed. The Army Corps of Engineers has approved our wetlands permit. Our previous State of VT wetlands permit for the site expires in November. State Wetland Ecologist Brock Freyer will need to

grant us an extension. Dan has contacted Josh Ryan of Timber and Stone to confirm his estimate for the trail work in 2023 and put this project on his schedule.

**e. Access Trail to Lamoille Riverwalk:** Bonnie mentioned the possibility of making an additional access trail to the Lamoille Riverwalk that would go around the wastewater treatment plant. Kris said he will talk with town Manager Don Turner about this. Dan said the plant operator was the one who first mentioned the possibility. Green Mountain Power owns the Ritchie Ave. boat access property. If they lock the gate at the top of the hill, we would lose our access to the Ritchie Ave. trailhead. This additional trail would give us another potential entry aside from the Checkerberry trailhead and allow neighbors easier access. Some grading would be needed to make the trail easier to walk.

**f. Arbor Day Foundation Tree City U.S.A.:** Pamela is interested in having Milton qualify for Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City U.S.A. designation. Bonnie mentioned that we do an Arbor Day event every year at Green-Up Day. Laurie said we have been handing out treelings and information to participants who pick up Green-Up bags. Kris said we have already adopted a generic tree ordinance and have planted about 150 trees (valuing about \$200,000) along the Route 7 corridor. We also have an Emerald Ash Borer ordinance. Irene read the Tree City requirements that are posted online at ArborDay.org: Have a tree board or Department; Establish a tree ordinance; Celebrate Arbor Day; and Spend about \$2 per person on urban forestry. Jenna said we would need to add something to the DRB rules to do this.

**g. Schedule Trail Maintenance Projects (Eagle Mountain, Milton Town Forest...):** Dan and William will work on the scheduling. Bonnie asked about progress on the benches we ordered through the Recreation Dept. Jenna said the wrong type (portable not in-ground benches) were sent; corrected order is expected this month. Bonnie updated the Lake Champlain Land Trust about repainting the trail blazes and possibly installing a bench. The Hoyt lookout sign is leaning and needs to be re-installed in the rocky outcrop. The parking directional sign also needs to be re-installed. Bonnie will ask John Bartlett about mowing the fields at the Milton Town Forest as it has been more than 5 years since the previous mowing.

**h. Bombardier Park Pond:** Laurie suggested we remove fallen birch limbs and logs that have been rolled into the pond as it is quickly eutriching. Bonnie said Brock Freyer told her we could only remove debris that was thrown in by people (like plastic trash.) Jenna said she has met with Brock and we may remove the logs that were rolled in. We would need a special permit to do any dredging.

**5. Staff Update:** Amanda Costello is our new administrative assistant for Planning & Zoning and Public works. We will send out MCC notes to her.

**6. Nature Notes:** Kris: A UVM student is working on a Black Ash database and has been monitoring VT sites. She has found some around Hibbard Road at the Arrowhead Golf Course. She has also noted some rare (VT S3) orchids. Kris hiked up Arrowhead Mountain and found a piece of a Red Cedar tree that he estimates had been about 400 years old. Kris has also been recording the largest VT trees. He said there is an Alternate-leaf Dogwood on Dan's property that is 15 feet tall and about 5 inches in diameter.

**7. Approval of Minutes: 06/28/2022 Meeting Minutes Revised.**

Laurie MOVED that we approve the special Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2022. Bonnie SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION Passed.

**8. Adjournment:**

Bonnie MOVED that we adjourn. Pamela SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk  
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_, Milton Town Clerk