



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:.....**Regular Meeting**
Date:.....**September 27, 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, 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 6:40 p.m.

2. Attendance:

Members Present: Laurie DiCesare, Dan Gaherty, Bonnie Pease, William Pikul (via Zoom; left meeting after item 4c due to illness) and Pamela Sandoval.

Members absent: None

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

Public Present: Prospective MCC member Wendy Wilton

3. Agenda Review:

Dan added welcoming Wendy Wilton; Laurie added Green-Up Gala; Bonnie added Municipal Day.

4. Business:

- A. **Prospective MCC Member Wendy Wilton:** Dan welcomed prospective MCC member Wendy Wilton to our meeting. She raised her family in Rutland, VT and came to Milton in 2019 from So. Burlington. She has worked for the USDA office in Colchester and was Treasurer for the City of Rutland for many years. She now works for a payroll software company. She has enjoyed hiking the Milton Town Forest and plans to visit Eagle Mountain soon.
- B. **Election of Officers:** Bonnie MOVED that we retain our current slate of officers: Dan Gaherty (Chair); William Pikul (Vice-Chair); Laurie DiCesare (Clerk). Pamela SECONDED. All approved and MOTION PASSED with our thanks for their service.
- C. **Milton Town Forest (MTF) Management Plan:** Dan: The Select Board adopted the MTF Management Plan. Part of the plan included a logging proposal for Stand #6 as described in a Sept. 12 e-mail to Dan and shared with MCC members. Proposed access for tree thinning would be through Harold Torre's property. Dan asked how we can prevent ATV access and suggested stones to block the logging trail at project completion. We would need Mr. Torre's approval. Ethan said he and the logger would mark the trees to be cut and Ethan would supervise the logging. No date has been set for the work. Timber was valued at "not more than \$5,000." William asked

if the money would go toward MCC projects. Dan is in general agreement with the logging project but wants to know the exact access point and how the wood sale money would be used. Bonnie will look up local property lines.

- D. **MCC Budget Report:** Dan was able to have the cost of materials we purchased for the MTF moved back from the 2022-2023 budget year to the 2021-2022 budget year so our upcoming budget will be the full \$2,000. Last year we spent \$1,871.30 or 94% of our budget.
- E. **Milton Town Forest (MTF) Walk with Ethan Tapper:** County Forester Ethan Tapper will lead a walk around the MTF on Saturday October 1, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon. Some people from Audubon, VT may be attending as well.
- F. **Milton Town Forest ADA Trail:** Dan: Our fourth application was successful. We received the State of VT Forests & Recreation RTP grant of \$30,000 for extending the MTF trail from the bridge to Milton Marsh. We will also receive ARPA funding from Milton. The total cost will be \$70,000 - \$80,000. Dan is working with Planning Director Cymone Haiju to develop Request For Proposals (RFPs) for the project.
 - a. Bonnie asked about the wetlands permit. Dan said we will need to apply for an extension. Cymone is working on the application to Julie Follensbee (replacing former Wetlands Ecologist Brock Fryer) to extend our current permit.
- G. **Mowing the Milton Town Forest Field:** Bonnie said the MTF field has not been mowed in several years. She talked with John Bartlett about mowing when the field dries out. Neighbors own part of the field and will need to be consulted. Bonnie cut and removed many one- to two-inch willows. Chris Derouchie will do the mowing.
- H. **Trail Maintenance Projects: Eagle Mountain:** On Saturday (Sept. 24, 2022), Dan and William entered via the Henry Road access. Dan removed the old "corduroy" logs and dispersed them in the adjacent woods. Bonnie sent us photos of the completed puncheon walkway which is 52 linear feet long and two planks wide. **Milton Town Forest:** About 70 linear feet of elevated walkways will be needed for the ridgeline West trail. Most of the materials have already been purchased.
- I. **Additional Entry to Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW):** Kris spoke with Town Manager Don Turner about a possible additional entry trail around the treatment plant for additional access to the LRW trail. Don likes the idea but wants to wait until the planned solar array is installed. Jenna says we could look at the solar project plans.
- J. **Green-Up Day 2023:** Pamela will request \$15 from Amanda for our yearly subscription to the Arbor Day Foundation which sends us 10 treelings to give away at Green-Up Day. Laurie received a notice about the "Green-Up VT Endowment Fund Kick-off Gala" on sat. Nov. 12, 2022 from 5 to 9 p.m. from Greenupvermont.org.

K. **Vermont Municipal Day:** Bonnie announced the state government Municipal Day will be held on Friday Oct. 28, 2022 at the National Life Building in Montpelier. The \$40 fee for the workshop and lunch is paid by the Planning Dept. Bonnie will probably attend.

5. **Staff Update:** Jenna said the VT Parks & Recreation conference, including trail maintenance training, will be held at Lake Morey Oct. 12 to 13, 2022. Jenna will send us a link to the event. The recreation Department will pay for anyone who wants to attend. Park Benches have not yet arrived but are due in October. Bombardier Park: Ben made a new trail map for Bombardier Park. The new Public Works building will not be touching the wetlands trail.

6. **Nature Notes:** Laurie learned from a neighbor that a Bald Eagle has been seen in Jenkins' field on East Road on several occasions. Bonnie saw a turkey crossing the road around Eagle Mountain. Dan saw two Spotted Salamanders around his home. Kris saw a Pignut Hickory and Chinquapin Oak at Eagle Mountain. He will be going to Isle La Motte to look at trees. He said he attended a program where participants pounded Black Ash wood to release the fibers for making baskets. He said there is a Black Ash swamp on Hibbard Road.

7. **Approval of Minutes:** Bonnie MOVED that we approve the Minutes of Aug. 23, 2022. Laurie SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

8. **Adjournment:**

Bonnie MOVED that we adjourn. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:


Dan Gaherty, Chair

Date: OCT. 25, 2022

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk's Office on this 26 day of Oct., 2022.

ATTEST: Krista Bews, Milton Town Clerk

