



MILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting @ 6:00 PM, Wednesday, 3/6/2024
Milton Town Hall, 55 Industrial Way

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Virginia Long (Chair), Steve Panish, Robert Weiss, Jeff LeClair, Lee Pilkovsky.

Alternates: Sharon Buttrick and Wayne Sylvester

Absent: None

Public: Deb McCormack (minutes recorder)

Virginia Long, Chair, opened the meeting at 6:04 PM.

1. Welcome new Commissioner appointments: Lee Pilkovsky, Commissioner; Steve Panish, Commissioner (reinstated), Wayne Sylvester, Alternate
2. Welcome guests: None.
3. Need someone to take minutes- any volunteers? Also need someone to record for YouTube: Sharon willing to help, but not as permanent position,
4. Ascertain who is present and approve alternates to serves as full members as needed:
See Attendance.
5. Event announcements:
 - a) Town Election on Tuesday, March 12 at Nute School, 8 am – 7 pm: Wetlands Zoning Ordinances on the Ballot, print info available at Town Hall, 55 Industrial Way or on Town Webpage (click on Town Meeting Information)
 - b) Forest Immersion Walk with Robin Schumaker and Aimee Dion on May 18th.
 - c) Earth Day cleanup at town-owned Ball Property on Saturday April 20(?) -- MCC and DPW joint event. Need to coordinate with new Director of DPW.
 - d) MMRG events: apple tree grafting on April 6 at Branch Hill farm in Milton Mills- must pre-register; and more, see www.mmrgnh.org.
6. Display/circulate MCC mail and CC materials for lending (sign-out sheet). Not discussed.

7. Review/Approve 2/7/2024 meeting minutes with corrections (revised version of Amy's minutes sent out on 2/28/2024), plus update town office address in header to 55 Industrial Way.

Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Steve seconded the motion. All in favor.

8. Financial Report: (Steve) - review budget, bank statements, invoices, and reimbursement approvals: Haven't received information from Brittany yet so not much to report. Received some interest of approximately \$300. Virginia purchased a flash drive and scans of surveys/plans (for electronic copies) at Staples.

Steve made a motion to approve \$33.77 to be paid to Virginia for Staples purchases. Lee seconded the motion. All in favor.

9. Goals and Priorities for 2024 - Brainstorming and discussion:

- a) Wetlands Protection.
- b) Prioritize steep slopes – set as priority for next year.
- c) Public relations/outreach.
 - i. Attend Board meetings and meet with departments
 - ii. Trail walk events monthly, such as the recent walk with Jonathan Nute. Stop at interesting points and gather the group together at open spots on the trail for talking points. Also visit other town's trails/conservation land.
 - iii. Add materials to kiosk(s) such as summer kickoff information.
 - iv. Education such as: Letter stating value of conservation land and protecting our natural resources. Generally, conservation land, although it brings in less taxes, it also costs the town less in services, etc., than residential development (which can be a net loss to the town). Conservation is supported in the Master Plan.
 - v. Support for TPPA and why it is so important. Salt/Phosphorus in ponds, invasive species. In 2 years, ponds went from "blue" status to "yellow and red" category.
 - vi. Ask "Why do you love Milton?"
 - vii. Invite MMRG to host a workshop in town about conservation, directed to large landowners.
 - viii. Maine Audubon has a document about "Economic Arguments for Conservation". Post bullet points at the kiosk.
 - ix. Facebook posts (with photos), more information on the MCC page on the town's website and a link to the Facebook page.
 - x. Lee can print large posters (up to 2' x 150"). Bob can laminate up to 8 1/2" x 11". The library can also laminate.
- d) Monitoring conservation land and enforcing easements. Join MMRG when they monitor their lands.
- e) Create a list of Milton's large landowners and review for potential conservation. Obtain a list from MMRG, listing properties by size. Consider properties that are contiguous with other conservation lands for greenway corridors. Send letters to owners but refer to MMRG after initial discussion. Personal contact is the best. MMRG sent out a "flash sale" notice for conservation to property owners due to a grant.
- f) Consider the purchase of conservation land. Possibly with a bond such as the Casey Road \$5,000 bond to raise and appropriate the funds.
- g) Recruit volunteers as they become more connected.

- h) Mixer with other town conservation groups to exchange ideas, roundtable discussion with food after for time to talk (i.e., freshwater streams).
 - i) Erosion control along roads (and Hart Brook silt). Some methods include a seed and erosion control mat, cutting back sides of road so not so steep and Cape Cod drains which are shallow ditches with asphalt. Set up a discussion time with the new Director of DPW to discuss concerns and how we can help (i.e., education, salt control, grants), and to say 'thank you' for plowing at Casey Road. DPW working with limited budget. Would MCC be able to fund some products needed?
10. Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications or Violations, if any (Virginia, Wayne) – Nihan Timber Harvest Permit by Notification: DES letter granting permit for forestry on a parcel at Route 75 and Elm Street.
11. Wetlands protections:
- a) Publicity for Wetlands Ordinance/Significant Wetlands Warrant Article-- Power Point printed and available online
 - b) Steep slopes ordinance?
12. MCC Events:
- a) Reports on Recent Events: Winter Walk with Jonathan Nute was well attended. Jeff also discussed how to build a trail, and Mike added his comments. Please sign TY Card to Nute!
 - b) Plans for Upcoming Events:
 - i. Earth Day Cleanup: Possible date April 20th. Sharon will be the point person to help coordinate. Wayne will ask Jen King to send an email blast. Contact DPW to confirm their commitment. Will need a truck for dump areas. Ask volunteers to pre-register and note a contact in case of weather cancellation. Ask volunteers to bring gloves, rakes, and water bottles. Provide refreshments such as two dozen cider donuts (McKenzies), a jug of coffee, and ask attendees to provide their own water bottles to be refilled from jug (maybe provided by Jared at BHF).

Steve made a motion for up to \$50.00 for food/refreshments for the Earth Day cleanup. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor.

- ii. Forest Immersion Walk: May 18th with Robin Schumaker
 - iii. Vernal Pool walk: (First warm rainy night of April is best for amphibian migration to vernal pools), later to find egg masses. Virginia asked Lindsey Watkins, UNH Ext. Forester. Possible dates discussed were 4/14, 4/27, 5/5 or 5/11. Lee and Sharon can lead on 5/5 and Lee can check the location prior to that date. Possible location is Branch Hill Farm property off Piggott Road. Maybe BHF could co-sponsor the event. Will need volunteers to help with parking. Post in Milton Gazette.
 - iv. WWW Festival: (August). Virginia contacted Julia Peterson of UNH Extension about the Enviroscape but hasn't received an answer yet.
 - v. Summer Kickoff in June - Handouts
13. Workshop reports ANY? – Not discussed.
14. Town-owned Easements and Conservation lands:
FEE PROPERTIES, REVIEW plans to 'monitor' each of these in 2023:

- CASEY RD CONSERVATION LAND (MMRG MONITORS) – Not discussed.
- JONES BROOK PARK/PAYNE (MMRG WILL MONITOR) – Not discussed.
- SPAULDING TURNPIKE (LEE) – Not discussed.
- DAMES BROOK (BOB) – Not discussed.
- OLD SKI AREA (VIRGINIA) – Not discussed.
- BALL PROPERTY (SHARON)
 1. Update on plan to clean up old dump (Earth Day cleanup, see events)
 2. Remove no trespassing signs, replace them with no motorized vehicle signs and no dumping signs: Need to buy more signs.
 3. Follow-up on encroachments (Virginia)
 - Gustitus encroachments: Cut trees (Burkes) and can level to ground, but no grinding and cannot mow on town property. Move Tiki bar? Will move shed by 3/17 but has until 3/31. Need to check and involve Chief Krauss if not done. Also check on dump areas at the same time (for Earth Day).
 - Pile of debris in woods opposite Jask properties

EASEMENTS:

- FRIZZELL- permission to post 'NO ATV' signs? "Erosion and puddles on snowmobile trail" (no pics of these, mentioned in previous reports) – Not discussed.
 - LANCEY WARD. "Slight encroachment" at easternmost corner where grass yard intrudes into easement. Letter needed. – Not discussed.
 - LAVALLIERE - Not discussed.
 - LYMAN BROOK update on letter sent: No response yet.
 - SILVER SPRINGS – Not discussed.
 - WALLACE WAY - Not discussed.
 - NUTE HAYBARN AND PLANTATION EASEMENTS (SHARON) – Not discussed.
 - LIBERTY CIRCLE – (Nute) – Not discussed.
 - CURRENT – (STEVE) – Not discussed.
15. Trail Volunteers Group Update (Jeff): Postpone until next month. Jeff might be able to find out about possible champion big tree on Casey Rd Conservation Land.
 16. Report from TPPA (Wayne) including MCC joint educational outreach (Virginia): See #9.
 17. Virginia's report, including communications to MCC: Talked to Butch and Trout Unlimited. Joel of TU knows there will be a turnover within the DPW, but the project will still happen. Jen has a new job and MCC will no longer have her to take minutes as there is no line item for it in the budget. Must have minutes of all votes, even if audio is recorded.
 18. Other business: None.
 19. Update on Tayzach Realty development of Map 5/Lot 7 on Willey Rd next to Miller Pond: Not discussed.

20. Recruitment of new Alternate members: ANY prospects? – Not discussed.

21. Public input: No public attending

22. Confirm date of next month's meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 6pm. The meeting in May will be postponed until May 15th.

23. Adjourn

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approx. 8:20pm. Lee seconded the motion. All in favor.