



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:.....Regular Meeting
Date:.....January 24, 2023
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 Kris Dulmer, Milton Tree Warden & MCC liaison, Jenna Tucker Eugair, Director of Recreation

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dan Gaherty at 6:33 p.m.

2. Attendance:

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

Members absent: None

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

Public Present: Randy Pikul (William's brother), Shane Rogers (prospective MCC member)

3. Agenda Review:

Bonnie added Abenaki Chief Don Stevens; Dan added Allen Brook Stormwater.

4. Business:

A. Milton Town Forest (MTF) ADA Trail:

i. RTP Grant Agreement: Dan said Planning Director Cymone Haiju received a grant package for review.

ii. RFP Contractor Process (Round 2): Dan spoke with Josh Ryan of Timber & Stone who said the project is too big for his recently-downsized company, so they will not be bidding. We will need to re-issue the RFP in April or May. Bonnie said the Army Corps of Engineers will send a permit to Cymone. Dan and William are compiling a list of potential contractors.

iii. DEC Permit: Site Evaluation by Wetlands Ecologist: Julie Follensbee and Jeff Kershner, want to return for a site visit in May. Bonnie walked the area at the end of November with Julie and Jeff the engineers the Town hired to make a map to meet permit standards. Julie wants to return to the site in May.

B. Invasive Species Day Follow-up: Pamela will e-mail Bernie Paquette of Jericho, suggesting he contact other local organizations about invasive species. We will work on removing them throughout the year.

C. Possible Native American Programs at MTF: Abenaki Chief Don Stevens spoke with Amanda Pitts in Zoning. The MCC discussed possible Native American programs in the MTF and/or Bonnie and Brian's adjacent land. They are looking at potential dates for a discussion and field trip. Pamela and Laurie are interested in attending. Dan suggested we check out the Abenaki Tribe website: www.Abenakitribe.org.

D. Trail Maintenance Projects: MTF: Bonnie and Brian have cleared at least 20 fallen trees. Lamoille Riverwalk (LRW): Bonnie noted one tree had fallen. Jenna’s husband said he saw a leaning tree. Bonnie says the VYCC bridge by Post #7 has a broken board (Spring repair project.) Eagle Mountain: Dan cleared four trees that had fallen over trails. Brian Pease noted that a woman asked him about putting some artwork up in the MTF. Bonnie asked the Town Manager Don Turner if we could have a game warden remove the tree stand. Kris said the stands needs a contact name and phone number. Shane says VT Fish & Wildlife regulations state that it may not be left up all year.

E. Staff Update: In response to Dan’s e-mail about extended time for comments on Allen Brook, Jenna pointed out that Allen Brook is located in the Ledges development off Route 7 south. After many months of waiting for the two park benches we ordered in June 2021, Jenna cancelled the order but has yet to receive reimbursement. She received an e-mail from the company saying they apologize for the long delay and that they will send us replacement benches. Kris said that he has received the Urban Community Forestry grant of \$5,000 for ash tree removal.

F. Nature Notes: Bonnie has seen a pair of bluebirds at her feeders; her game cam recorded four young deer, 3 skunks, two rabbits and a hawk. William has seen more than 15 bluebirds around his house and many coyotes. Laurie sent members a copy of her VT Insect Club Winter Newsletter article “New Pond at NatureHaven” and the animals (Solitary Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron, deer...) that have visited the site during the past summer.

5. Approval of Minutes: Bonnie MOVED that we accept the amended Minutes of Dec. 13, 2022. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION PASSED.

6. Adjournment: Laurie MOVED that we adjourn. Dan SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

_____ Date: _____
Dan Gaherty, Chair

Filed with the Milton Town Clerk’s Office on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST: _____, Milton Town Clerk