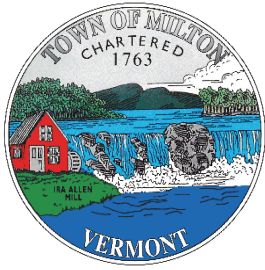


CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Meeting Type:.....**Regular Meeting**
Date:.....**May 23, 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 6:36 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: Chittenden Co. North Sen. Irene Wrenner

3. Agenda Review: Jenna added park benches. William added MCC budget review.

4. Business:

- A. Dan's Resignation:** Dan said that he will soon be moving out of State so he will be resigning as chair after our June meeting. He has served as an active MCC member for about 15 years including 7 years as chair. We thanked him for his dedicated service and wished him well in his new home. We will elect a new chair at our August meeting.
- B. Park Benches:** After more than 18 months of e-mails and phone calls to the manufacturer about delayed and erroneous orders, Jenna said she received a full refund of \$698.00...and two free park benches. William will move them from Bombardier Park. Jenna will accept the refund and add it to our 2024 MCC budget.
- C. Green-Up / Arbor Day Review:** Pam gave the data she collected to Jenna. Jenna said 536 of the 600 Green-Up bags were used. About 40 bags, the first bag on many rolls, arrived in damaged condition with a hole in the bottom. 276 tires were removed and 25 miles of Milton roads were cleaned. Irene commented that our operation was easy to participate in and well organized. William said he took the 2 remaining dozen donuts of the 4 dozen we offered to Fire and Rescue. Bonnie noted that on colder days, more people wanted donuts and hot chocolate. Jenna's husband took the Bald Cypress treeling that Kris had raised and offered at our Arbor Day give-away. Laurie gave away several Nannyberry / Wild Raisin treelings. (Laurie said the Arbor Day Foundation treelings have not yet arrived.)
- D. Bombardier Park Trail Blazes:** Jenna and Ben are working on revising the Bombardier trail map. Temporary signage will be installed this week. Ben removed the old trail markers and Bonnie and Brian Pease painted new trail blazes on about 2.5 miles of trail.

- E. Milton Town Forest (MTF) ADA Trail Project:** Dan: 1. RTP Grant: We now have a signed agreement for the \$30,000 RTP grant. We also have \$45,000 in ARPA funds.
2. Site Visit (May 12, 2023): Bonnie and Dan [and William?] walked the MTF with Wetlands Ecologists, Tina Heath and Elijah Schumacher, to assess potential ADA trail impacts. They determined that there were only Class III wetlands in the area the trail would impact so that a hard surface like that at the trailhead would be acceptable. They suggested a porous lower layer to allow seasonal drainage to go through. Dan said Timber & Stone wrote the specifications for the RFP. Dan walked the area for the viewing platform that will be moved uphill from its original site.
3. RFP: Dan met with Planning and DEI Director Cymone Bedford about creating a map for the RFP. Cymone will produce a map using William's GPS coordinates. Cymone will post the RFP this week. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on site at the MTF June 15, 2023 at 9am. Applications submitted by June 30, 2023 will be reviewed by July 3, 2023. Contracts will be awarded July 7, 2023.
- F. MCC Volunteer Project Group:** Pamela is interested in encouraging volunteers to form a trails committee. William said Holly Godfrey has mentioned an interest in helping with trail maintenance and other outdoor projects. Pamela and William will take the lead on this endeavor.
- G. Eagle Mountain Walk (May 15, 2023):** Laurie and her botany mentor, Tom Scavo, walked around Eagle Mountain on May 15, 2023. Laurie found the uneven footing on the last leg of the trail to the summit was hard to manage even using her friend's hand and walking cane for stability. The short railing, a remnant of an Eagle Scout project years ago, was not useful. Dan said that occasionally encountering rough footing is to be expected part of a trail experience. Laurie said she saw no good places to step and saw this as a possible liability. She suggested that a few smaller rocks might be added to the crevices to provide stable footing. There were no signs at the summit to direct people to the alternate trails down to the Hoyt Overlook trail. Due to challenging footing, Laurie had to have assistance coming down the "easier" alternate trail as well. Bonnie said the Lake Champlain Land Trust added the "easier" trail down to encourage people not to use the more direct but steeper and more erodible route down to the Hoyt Overlook. William will walk the area and look around. Laurie and Tom also walked the Wildflower Loop and added many plant and animal species to Laurie's Eagle Mountain species list.
- H. Arbor Day Conference (May 19, 2023):** Bonnie and Pamela attended the Arbor Day Conference at Vermont Technical college in Randolph, VT and attended several seminars. Pamela connected with a woman in the VT Urban & Community Forestry program and plans to work with her on grants. Bonnie mentioned a need to update our tree inventories. Both felt the conference was very helpful.
- I. Trail Maintenance: MTF:** William will bring up the additional materials needed for the Ridgeline West trail. Dan and Bonnie will help. Lamoille River Walk: William will repair the broken board on the bridge [which one?]
- J. MCC Budget:** Dan said we currently have \$1,432 in our budget. William said we will need 4 bags of cement to install the benches. Dan said we will need to contact Matt Fiddler (LCLT) about the bench placement.

5. Staff Update: Kris says John Wells has good experience with landscaping work with Burlington Parks & Recreation and will be here until October. Greg Roy is helping with Buildings and Grounds for the summer.

6. Nature Notes: William said a bear has been visiting his home and spewing trash. He's alerted his neighbors. He was amazed at viewing his first Pileated Woodpecker. Bonnie said the white trilliums are already fading to pink at Bombardier Park. The recent hard frost has affected the Sumacs and Ostrich Ferns. She has seen an Indigo Bunting among a flock of 25 birds that visited her feeding station. Laurie said she saw a young Eastern Newt (red eft) at Eagle Mountain. She and Tom heard an Oriole. Kris showed us a photo of the adult Milksnake that he found dead on the road

7. Approval of Minutes: Bonnie MOVED that we approve the Minutes of April 28, 2023. Pamela SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION PASSED.

8. Adjournment: William MOVED that we adjourn. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 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