



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:.....Regular Meeting
Date:.....August 29, 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 William Pikul at 6:37 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: Jesse Labrecque (J. Labrecque LLC); Irene Wrenner (Chittenden North State Senator)

4. Business:

A. Nomination and Voting for a New MCC Chair:

Bonnie nominated William Pikul for chair. Laurie SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Pamela nominated Bonnie Pease for Vice-chair. Laurie SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Bonnie nominated Laurie DiCesare for Clerk. William SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

B. Milton Town Forest ADA Trail Project Updates (Jesse Labrecque):

1. Start date Mon. Sept. 18, 2023: William reported that the Milton Select Board said J. Labrecque LLC was a great choice. Jesse said the 30-day project start date will depend on the weather. Trails have been very wet recently but we are anticipating more dry weather this week. He will use the parking lot for storing his machines. MCC members are invited to a trail walk-through on Sept. 18 at 8 a.m. William will send Jesse a MCC contact list and will buy a chain to close the entrance to the lot.

2. Sign Posting and Public Notification: Bonnie will put up a sign explaining the closure and will cover the "Parking" sign. William will talk with Planning Director Cymone Bedford about Front Porch Forum and Facebook posts.

3. Volunteers: Jesse will let us know when and how volunteers may be called in to help with the project.

C. MCC Working Group and Volunteer Recruiting:

Pamela has been looking at websites of other Conservation Commissions in our area to gather recruitment ideas. Some groups are offering walks and other events. Pamela will make signs for our park kiosks mentioning a desire for volunteers and additional MCC members. Bonnie suggested that our MCC website could be updated to include our recent projects. Jenna said she would post photos on our website. Laurie offered her page of Nature Notes from this meeting for the website. William asked members to bring information for website posting to our next meeting.

D. Bombardier Park Update:

Jenna is working with Bill Kaigle on making signage for the trails. Since Public Works is currently blocking part of the trail, Jenna put up “Detour” signs two days ago. Bonnie will help with white trail blazing.

E. Trail Maintenance Plan for the Rest of the Year:

Lamoille Riverwalk: William said the first small Boy Scout bridge is gone. Jenna said water covered other bridges. William said he will try to walk the trail this weekend.

River Street Park: Jenna said Green Mountain Power owns the land but Milton Recreation is in charge of maintenance. The park was filled with flotsam (many logs, boards, and a small boat) from the July 10-11, 2023 flooding. Our Public Works people worked with a hired crew to clear the debris. Laurie offered our thanks for the massive clean-up project.

Milton Town Forest (MTF): William and Bonnie agreed that the trail is currently too wet to install the puncheon bridge. Members want one of the new park benches to be placed at a site overlooking Milton Pond.

Eagle Mountain: Dan reminded us about the ecological zone at Eagle Mountain. Bonnie will contact someone at Lake Champlain Land Trust to ask about where we may place a bench.

Bombardier Park: Jenna says the Fellowship of the Wheel has offered to help us with building bridges. They have a long wait list but may be able to do the work between other projects.

5. Staff Updates: Kris said most of the Grange renovation has been completed and the building is open for use. Paving of the parking area is in process. Jenna says that a portion of the money the Recreation Department earns from programs will go toward Grange maintenance.

6. Nature Notes:

Laurie shared her Nature Notes photo sheet to the group. It includes a recent photo of an unusual orchid she saw at the MTF: Ladies’ Tresses (*Spiranthes* sp.) Bonnie’s photo of

a *Spiranthes* orchid from 2016 was the only other *Spiranthes* documentation we have on our MTF species list. Laurie said she has noticed a reduced number of dragonflies all over VT this Summer. She's writing an article for the Fall VT Entomological Newsletter about this.

Bonnie and Brian just returned from a trip to Norway where they saw polar bears, beluga and blue whales, puffins, bearded seals and walruses along with calving glaciers and waterfalls. "It was an awesome trip."

7. Approval of Minutes: Bonnie MOVED that we APPROVE the Minutes of our Special Meeting on July 6,2023. Laurie SECONDED. All Approved. MOTION PASSED.

8. Adjournment:

Bonnie MOVED that we adjourn. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 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

Milton Town Forest:



Ladies' Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes* sp.)



Gray Comma Butterfly (*Polygonia progne*)



Violet Dancer Damselfly (*Argia fumipennis*)
MTF sighting 8.20.2023



Tricolor Bumble Bee (*Bombus ternarius*)
MTF sighting 8.20.2023

NatureHaven (431 East Road, Milton, VT)



Black-tipped Darner 8.17.2023
(*Aeshna tuberculifera*)



Brown Prionid Beetle 7.24.2023
(*Orthosoma brunneum*) (~2 inches long!)