



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Type:.....Regular Meeting
Date:.....September 26, 2023
Time:.....6:30 p.m.
Place:.....Community Room
Address:.....43 Bombardier Road, Milton
Contact:.....(802) 893-1186
Website:.....www.miltonvt.gov

MEETING MINUTES

*William Pikul, Chair Bonnie Pease, Vice-chair Laurie DiCesare, Clerk 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 6:30 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), Holly, and Lisa Schaeffler (Public Works Director)

Public Present: Shannon Gunderson (Milton Independent reporter), Kent Henderson (Friends of Lake Champlain)

3. Agenda Review: William added Trail Update part iv.

4. Business:

A. Presentation by Dan Albrecht, CWSP Manager Northern Lake Champlain

Allen [Petty] Brook and Mallett's Creek in Milton are not officially designated as impaired. The goal is to slow the flow of Allen Brook so sediments settle out before reaching Lake Champlain. Ditches and infiltration trenches are low-tech and relatively cheap non-regulatory project remedies. Stonebridge Brook in NW Milton is considered nearly pristine. The State of VT has money available for non-regulatory projects such as treating non-regulated runoff.

As an active member of the Friends of Lake Champlain, retired dairy veterinarian and 12-year member of the Georgia Conservation Commission, Kent Henderson of Georgia has been learning about the MCC and local projects, especially those pertaining to non-point phosphorus reduction. He has hired an Executive director and is looking for a Project Coordinator. Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) funding is available from the State.

William asked about the sources of phosphorus pollution. Dan said that phosphorus embedded in the soil enters streams through erosion. He says streambank planting may help alleviate the erosion. The goal is to slow the flow so sediments drop out. (Laurie mentioned Lake Arrowhead's eutrophication from Lamoille River sediments. Kent said the

Missisquoi and Lamoille Rivers are in the NW Regional Planning Commission's jurisdiction.)

Kent says the Friends of Lake Champlain has been working on gully stabilization around Route 104 near I-89 Exit 18. This is a non-regulatory project on private property.

B. Mel Auffredou, Franklin Co. Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD):

Mr. Auffredou was not present so we tabled his discussion.

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

1. Start Date Sept. 18, 2023: On Friday, Bonnie and Kris marked the trees in the trail corridor. On Sunday, William walked the trail with Bonnie and Pamela. William spoke with Jesse and Erin from J. Labrecque LLC. Trail work has been completed up to the first bridge; the center of the trail has been marked; a staging area in the woods has been cleared. William said that a hunter who had set up game cameras and a hunting blind without permission was, as with other walkers, denied access to the work site. Jesse and Erin will close the site at the end of their work day. They will take names of any trespassers. William will be given a weekly update. Some culverts damaged by heavy machinery at the beginning of the trail will be replaced at the end of the project.

2. Sign Posting and Public Notification: William asked Lisa if she has any "Park Closed" signs. If not, Jenna says the Recreation Dept. can provide a sandwich board sign. Lisa will post a note about the MTF construction area closure on Front Porch Forum. Shannon said she will post a statement in the Milton Independent about the closure.

3. MTF Trail Access: Only Jesse and his associates who are working on the trail will be allowed access. Anyone with a question about that may speak to William or Town Manager Don Turner.

4. PR Letter: William shared an e-mail from Erin Bovat with a draft letter about the MTF work area closure to be used as a public announcement. William asked us to send him our feedback comments within the next couple of days.

D. Formation of MCC Working Group Updates:

Pamela e-mailed us a copy of her "Brainstorm document on New MCC members and the Addition of Working groups to help with MCC Tasks" (Draft 9.22.2023). We discussed creating a new flyer to post at park sites; using Zoom for all of our meetings; setting a schedule of public events; and talking with Milton H.S. teachers about student members for the MCC. Pam will compose a draft flyer. William, Pamela and Jenna will be our designated Zoom technicians. Upcoming events to schedule: William suggested the MTF trail opening; having a Milton on the Move / MCC booth at Tuesday evening music nights at Bombardier Park. Pam said there is currently no conservation-oriented group at MHS. Kris will be our H.S. liaison. Pamela mentioned a desire to have small garden plots around Town. Kris has been helping to maintain our new orchard, which produced its first apple this year. Laurie spoke of the pollinator benefits of having a two-yard wildflower buffer zone to provide food for pollinator butterflies and bees and the birds and other animals in the food web.

E. EAB Ash Tree Removal along Westford Road:

On Friday, Kris and Bonnie marked 40 Ash trees for removal from Westford Road. A contract for the removal is currently out for bids.

F. Meeting with Matt Fidler of Lake Champlain Land Trust (LCLT):

William plans to meet sometime soon with Matt Fidler, Restoration and Stewardship Coordinator for LCLT. Bonnie handed out a LCLT map of the designated Ecological Zone. Naturalists Tom Scavo and Laurie DiCesare have found and documented rare plants around the Hoyt Overlook area.

G. Trail Maintenance Plan for 2023:

William picked up the parts for the benches we hope to place at Eagle Mountain. Bonnie will advise William when the MTF trail is dry enough to complete the puncheon bridge work. Holly offered to help with a few days' notice. The small Boy Scouts' bridge at the Lamoille Riverwalk was lost during flooding and needs to be rebuilt. William says we have plenty of materials on hand to complete the task. William asked for ideas for Spring projects.

5. Staff Updates:

Administrative Assistant Amanda Costello had her baby and is on maternity leave.

6. Nature Notes:

Bonnie has been seeing a woodchuck. Laurie has photographed some tussock moths. William has been seeing some large dragonflies. Kris photographed two Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) in Fairfax. He will post the photos on iNaturalist.org. Kris hiked Arrowhead Mountain with two VT State naturalists. They visited a Red Cedar forest and saw some 300- to 400-year-old specimens of petrified wood and a rare fern.

7. Approval of Minutes:

Bonnie MOVED that we accept the MCC Minutes of 8.29.2023 as amended. William SECONDED. All APPROVED. MOTION PASSED.

8. Adjournment:

Bonnie MOVED that we adjourn. Laurie SECONDED. All APPROVED. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie DiCesare, MCC Clerk

APPROVED MINUTES:

_____ Date: _____
William Pikul, 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!)