**Mont Vernon Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday April 10, 2024** @ **7:30** **at Town Hall**

**Present: Adrienne Gosselin, Joanne Draghetti, Andrew Scalfani** (no quorum present). Guests: Jaren Noorda, Kirsten Hugger, Jon Young

7:35PM Adrienne Called Meeting to order & Seated Alternates.

7:36PM **Acceptance of previous months’ minutes: tabled until next month.**

7:36PM **Presentation & motion to pay bills**

* Adrienne reported NHACC dues paid for 2024

7:37PM **Correspondence**

* Dallen Noorda – Contacted CC for possible Eagle Scout project. Discussion ensued re: expanding trail at Herlihy Swamp and Florence Lamson Property. Adrienne will contact Shelley for info re: boundaries & tax maps.
* Jaren Noorda – Mont Vernon resident who previously worked on Eagle Scout project at Herlihy Swamp, presented info about the pros & cons of removing Dam on Beaver Brook located on Herlihy Swamp conservation land. Jaren consulted with a Dam Removal Coordinator @NHDES, who stated that there is a procedure required by NHDES for dam removal and info is on line. He thought since the dam did not hold water anymore it may not be considered a dam anymore. Jaren also spoke with John McGee, Biologist for NH F&G re: species of fish to be evaluated in Beaver Brook & Herlihy Swamp. If native brook trout are present, various grants may be available. The MVCC will continue to explore the implications, & cost of removing the old Dam. Adrienne will contact Jay Wilson to see if he’s been in touch with Mr. Herlihy so we can possibly obtain some historical info.

8:00PM **New Business:**

* **Girl Scouts:** Joanne attended a meeting with the Girl Scouts who requested CC input re: ideas they had to work toward Bronze, Silver & Gold awards for the Girl Scouts. John Quinlan, Selectmen was also in attendance because the plan for these awards included Carleton Pond, as well as the land owned by the Library & Cemetery. John reported the Library & Cemetery own over 40 acres combined behind Carleton Pond/Park, and the Cemetery Trustees have logged the property recently but are open to plans for recreational trails on the property until such time that it is needed for a future cemetery. The Girl Scouts gave a brief presentation of various projects they would be interested in doing such as build a kiosk and bog bridge at Carleton Pond, create a trail starting from Carleton Pond leading back to land owned by Cemetery, installing benches, planting & labeling native trees, educational markers for vernal pools, geocache, bat boxes to name a few. Girl Scout Leaders Bobbi Billows and Amanda are interested in developing an overall plan incorporating multi tasks that the Girl Scouts can use to achieve their various awards. John Quinlan stated there will be a meeting of the Library, Cemetery & MVCC in the next 3-4 weeks and they can present to the whole group, and a site walk of the larger property can be scheduled. Joanne stated Carleton Pond & Park are a separate parcel from the Library & Cemetery property, donated by the Carleton Family for conservation to be managed by the CC and there are some restrictions in the deed (ie. must be kept in a natural state, no buildings, native plants only, etc.). After discussing this project, The MVCC set a tentative date of **Sunday, April 14th** to meet with Bobbi Billows & Amanda to do a **site walk at Carleton Pond.** Joanne will contact them & confirm date.

8:25PM **Old Business:**

* **Upton Road log:** Todd Wilkins is going to take a look to see if he can remove with skid steer. Jay Wilson, Fire Chief rec. caution tape be put up to warn people from crossing. Andrew volunteered.
* **Carleton Pond plantings:** Joanne ordered Native Bushes from 2 nurseries for CP, will be available for pick up first week of June. Date for planting TBD at next month’s meeting. Jay Wilson contacted Joanne to recommend a No Hunting sign be posted at Carleton Pond, resulting from complaint that MV Police received of a person seen possibly duck hunting at the Pond. Police are investigating the matter.
* **Spring Trail Cleaning**
  + Wah Lum- Barry and David flagged new route which is almost completed. MVCC scheduled **Trail Day for Sunday** **April 28th.** Volunteers will be needed to help rake and clear the trail.
  + Havinga Woods: Adrienne reported 2 large trees down. Date TBD to remove from trail next month’s meeting.
* **Survey: Archibald Property:** tabled, follow up with Shelley.
  + Roger Pinchard Conservation Land (parking, kiosk, trail). Plan to walk the property in September
* **Stake Sign and Kiosk hole areas for DPW**
  + Signs: Herlihy Swamp, Hebert Forest
  + Kiosks: Horton Pond
  + Update from Ben Crosby @ DPW: been pushed back, will complete in a couple of weeks

8:55PM **Public Time:** Transaction of any other MVCC Business.

Two Mont Vernon residents attended the meeting expressing interest in becoming Conservation Commission Members. Kirsten Hugger, and Jon Young. Adrienne provided info re: role of Conservation Commission and various duties that the CC is charged with under State RSAs. No formal vote taken to make a recommendation due to lack of quorum, but Adrienne will email Selectmen to let them know two individuals are interested in being Board Members. Adrienne also reported unfortunately Delia Kostner has stepped down from the MVCC due to work time constraints.

* Next monthly meeting scheduled **May 8, 2024**

9:05PM **Meeting Adjourned**

**Respectfully submitted by,**

Joanne Draghetti, Mont Vernon Conservation Commission, Secretary