

## Meeting Minutes: Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: April 10, 2019

**Meeting brought to order: 7:30 PM @ MV Town Hall**

**Present: Jay Wilson, Joanne Draghetti, Shelley Brooks, Jeff Johnson, Peter Tedder, MaryJean MacGillivray, Garth Witty (seated)**

7:32: March Minutes Reviewed. Shelley made a motion to accept March Minutes, Peter seconded.

All present in agreement

Correspondence: Scott Knuckles and ATV Usage on Wah Lum- *Refer to New Business*

**7:40 Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary**

MaryJean was asked if she would continue on as Secretary. She agreed to continue but asked if

There could be an alternate from time to time. Joanne agreed that alternates could fill in as needed.

Jay agreed and added that the current “minute’s format” should be followed.

The positions of Chair (Joanne Draghetti) and Vice Chair (Jay Wilson) came up for a vote. The positions were not contested. Jay made a motion that one vote be made to include the three (3) officers. It was agreed, and the vote was taken. It was unanimous for the above officers to continue in these positions.

**Delegation of Duties:**

**Website & Facebook Page:** Prior to this meeting Joanne meet with Adrienne Penkacik (not present) to discuss the maintaining of the Town Web Page and the CC Face book Page. *Adrienne Penkacik will assume the responsibility of the MV Conservation Facebook Page and Town Web Page monitoring and updating.*

**Trail Cam Maintenance:** Shelley Brooks/David Brooks have been monitoring the two trail cams for a couple of years. Shelley explained the details involved in the monitoring. At this time there are two cams operating. There is also a third cam that we can put into use where needed. *Jeff Johnson volunteered to take on the Cam monitoring.* Shelley will review the particulars of the maintenance with Jeff. It was suggested that the Cams be reviewed every other month or as needed depending on the situation.

**Monitoring of potential violations on Conservation Property:** Joanne explained that when a call comes in to the CC to respond/inspect *possible violations or trespassing on Town owned property* we need to respond. *Peter Teddar volunteered to help with this monitoring.*

**Invasive Species Management:** Lee Gilman has been spraying invasives on our Conservation Property for the CC. MaryJean will get in touch with him to do a site walk end of August. Also, we need to find out if Lee Gilman has gotten a state permit for this spraying. The spraying should be done early to

mid September. Jay suggested that we vote on spraying budget not to exceed. Jay suggested that we might want to get another bid from a different contractor. Next meeting we should have a *budget item amount* to vote on at our next meeting. *MaryJean will contact Lee regarding permit and availability.*

**Vote for Full Board Member: Adrienne Penkacik**

Adrienne expressed interest in changing her status from alternate to full board member. Jay made a motion stating such. Peter seconded. Motion Passed. All members agreed to change Adrienne's status to full board member. Welcome Adrienne! Joanne will email Selectmen and request they appoint Adrienne as full board member to the CC.

## 2.

**Old Business: Carleton Pond Result of Town Meeting:** Joanne explained: Warrant Article reduced to \$6000 at Town Mtg. from the requested \$12K. This change to the original warrant article was done during town meeting and was voted on and accepted. It was a paper work error between the Trustees and Town Treasurer that the CC was not responsible for and that has left us \$6K shy of what we need for the Carleton Pond Project. Joanne has been in contact with Laurie Brown in the Selectmen's Office and the Trustees. Eileen Naber has recommended the CC apply for funds from the Trustees to make up for the shortfall. Joanne and Jay will also meet with Selectmen to discuss the situation on April 15<sup>th</sup>. **Jay made a motion that we now need to apply to the MV Trustees of the Trust Funds for \$6,000 from whatever fund the Trustees have available for money to continue the work on Carleton Pond.** Garth Seconded. All in Favor Motion Passed. Joanne is scheduled to meet with the Trustees on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Rock at Carleton Pond:** Jay said DPW will be putting Plaque Rock back. Jay suggested that DPW can place the rock on the right, high side near the hydrant. In addition, Joanne said that some people have expressed interest in putting a "dedicated bench" at Carleton Pond with a plaque dedicated to Alwin Carleton. Jay will look into cost of bench.

**Wetland Ordinance Update:** Joanne has reviewed with the Planning Board the updates made. The

**PB** has been very helpful and they have Under Prohibited Uses: There could be an exception for natural fertilizers and compost. Joanne asked Garth if there is Organic Fertilizer that can be used? (No human waste fertilizer/material will be permitted.) (Not appropriate in buffer around Wetland). Garth suggested that **North Country Organics** is an excellent product. Joanne will contact DES and research further.

**Enforcement Issues: Joanne will send out the latest draft for us to review before she meets again with PB.** Bill McKinney: Will contact NRPC for a Major Wetlands and Buffers map.

**Conservation Easement Monitoring Update:** Shelley has not heard back from the landowner on Brook Road. Joanne suggested we think about another property.

### **9:00: New Business: Illegal ATV Riding on Dow Open Space & Wah Lum Conservation Land.**

Joanne notified police that there was evidence of ATVs riding on conservation land off of Dow Road Subdivision and Wah Lum Reserve. Joanne spoke with Scott Knuckles who emailed the CC and explained to him that there are deed restrictions and conservation easements held by the State of NH and the Amherst Land Trust that are on the properties respectively, and the restrictions state passive recreation only on the Dow Road Subdivision Conservation Land and NO Motorized Wheeled Vehicles (ATVS) allowed on Wah Lum Reserve. The CC is responsible for monitoring the properties. Joanne has also posted new NO ATV signs on the properties involved. Jay made a motion to reimburse Joanne for ATV Signs (up to \$25) and Jeff seconded, motion passed. Jay felt that if the trespass continues we need to notify the State of NH Agency that holds the easement and have them get involved. On Wah Lum, Amherst Land Trust holds the easement and expects us to monitor the property.

**Signs & Trail Markers:** Discussion ensued regarding plastic trail markers vs. paint. Shelley felt that

Paint vs. Markers was better for the trees as the plastic markers get ingrown in the tree. The discussion

evolved to appropriate colors to use. Shelley will investigate paint options, costs and colors available.

Garth added that painting RED on boundry markers has been a standard.

**Turtle Crossing on Beech Hill Rd:** There were lots of turtles crossing and getting run over. Joanne mentioned that would be a good place for driver awareness with a couple of signs.

Garth said that Blue Seal has plastic 12x12 signs for \$7. Jay made a motion to spend up to \$50 for

Two signs and posts. Shelley seconded. All agreed.

### 3.

**Trail Work/Day:** The best time would be before the bugs, possibly April/May (to be determined)

**9:35: CC** was approached regarding purchasing some property. After discussion, it was determined that this wasn't a possibility due to acreage and cost. Garth made a motion to get back to Owner and let him know that the price was above our means. Jay seconded motion. All in favor.

### **9:45: View Lots: Discussion for Fire Dept to burn lots. Jay Wilson**

Joanne reminded the CC that we previously consulted with the Hillsborough County Natural Resource Conservation Service and they did not recommend burning as a management tool for the invasive species on the view lots. (MaryJean found the minutes from our last discussion re: burning of the view lots and read them to the CC members. The minutes stated that the NRCS did not recommend burning the view lots and that burning was not a good way to manage this property. The CC voted at that time not to burn the view lots.) Joanne also expressed concern as to how the burning and smoke could affect the neighbors. Jay Wilson said that **View Lots were not mowed in 2018 due to how wet the area was. Garth suggested that due to the abundance of Ticks this year he felt the burning would be a good**

*idea.* Joanne quoted Lee Gilman saying that you don't need to mow every year, you can mow every other year. Shelley suggested that due to nesting birds in the spring the burning/cutting should be done in the fall. Jay made a motion to burn the View Lots this spring. Garth seconded. Vote was taken: 4 yea, 3 nay. to burn the view lots this spring.

**9:50 Jay made motion to adjourn; Peter seconded.**

Respectfully Submitted, MaryJean MacGillivray

Next CC Meeting: May 8, 2019