

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: February 10, 2016

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

Present: Shelley Brooks, Jay Wilson, Joanne Draghetti, MaryJean MacGillivray

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Review January Minutes - Minutes reviewed. Shelley made a motion to accept January minutes, Joanne seconded and minutes approved by all present.

7:40 Presentation and Motions to Pay Bills: In Tom Wahle's absence Jay informed us that Tom has purchased the Ice Out Trophies and the dollar amount will not exceed \$30. Shelley made a motion to reimburse Tom up to \$30. Jay seconded, and all present agreed.

7:42 Review any correspondence: No Correspondence

7:55 Guest Speakers – Annette Immorlica brought a proposal regarding a trail easement on property that abuts conservation land and her property. The CC examined maps of the area that offered a good perspective of the proposal which would expand on some existing trails. A key piece of this connecting properties "puzzle" is also land owned by another party. The CC agreed that this proposal had much merit, but before we could make any decisions, we would need to contact the land owner that owns one of key connecting pieces. Shelley Brooks volunteered to contact the land owner to see if there is any interest in this proposal. Shelley and Annette will get back to the CC.

Mila Paul – From the UNH Thompson School: Mila presented a 3-person project composed of 12 hours per UNH student in the Forest Technology program that are offering their time in return for class credit. Mila was focused on the Purgatory Watershed Area as she felt that possibly more trail signage would be beneficial. Jay explained to her that the part of the Purgatory Watershed area she was considering was actually in Lyndeborough. Joanne pulled up maps on her computer of the watershed area to demonstrate the town boundaries that delineate the brook and suggested that her next stop should be to contact the Lyndeborough CC. The MVCC did feel that her work would have merit as there have been numerous "lost hiker" and illegal campfires emergencies. Mila presented several options for signage that would be effective and they were all in keeping with our current signage requirements. Shelley felt that there were definitely a couple of areas along the trail that would benefit from signage. We all agreed. Joanne will email Mila a copy of our own "seal" and rules so that she would have that to develop proposed signage for us. The CC also discussed Trail Head Address Markers which can be helpful for hikers as a reference. Joanne offered to walk some of the MVCC parcels with her so that she would have a better idea of the boundaries. Mila will get back to us after she meets with Lyndeborough CC.

Frank Chadwick - Mr. Chadwick lives in Mont Vernon near the Archibald town owned property. He is interested in doing a GPS of the Archibald property. Because our CC member Tom Wahle is also interested in mapping the Archibald property and doing trail work, Jay suggested to Frank that we would send Frank's email address to Tom and they could discuss the possibility of collaborating efforts for trail marking on that property.

7:56 Old Business:

Master Plan Update - Joanne continues to work with Annette Immorlicia on the wildlife Habitat Chapter of the plan. Joanne and Annette will meet on Feb. 22 with Amanda Stone from the UNH Ext., wildlife mgmt expert will to discuss recommendations for Wildlife Habitat Chapter.

7 Wilton Road Wetlands Permit- Wetlands Permit is still being filled out.

Carleton Pond Winter Carnival - Due to the unfavorable weather conditions at the pond for skating, as well as the lack of snow for sledding, the Carnival has been put on hold. As weather conditions change we will re-evaluate. Jay made a suggestion that might be a possibility for us, and that was to hold the Skating/Sledding event on Saturday, March 5th after the Firemen hold their breakfast, or the following day Sunday, March 6th. This would help create a weekend of MV Fun! The CC agreed that his plan had merit, and will follow the weather to see if we can hold our event.

9:00 New Business:

Brett Vaughn's Proposal for Purgatory Road Development:

Resolution of F&G Club issues

Recommend an Environmental Impact Study to review impact on this property and property down below the development.

Recommend a Natural Resources Study/Inventory.

Engineering study needs to be done to evaluate curb cuts and culverts especially due to impact of wetlands.

Purgatory Road Upgrades: Recommendations for road width and shoulder

Fieldstone & Mr. Vaughn requested a waiver from the Planning Board for Purgatory Road to be Upgraded to the following: **18ft. road width for the paved road, with 2 ft. gravel shoulders, up to the fire cistern.** The CC discussed the more road side disturbance and shoulder width, and the more it creates an opportunity for the spread of invasive species. Also discussed was the effects of paved surface which creates more run off affecting groundwater, wildlife, insects, birds and natural vegetation. Given this is a watershed district and large wildlife habitat with several wetlands involved, the CC voted to recommend the Planning Board approve this request for a waiver. Vote taken: 3 in favor and one abstain.

Open Space Land in this development- Should it be deeded to the town or residents of the development? Discussion on the pros and cons ensued, agreeing that further discussion was needed. The CC agreed that allowed uses on Open Space should be consistent with abutting town conservation land in the Purgatory Watershed and other large subdivisions, such as Dow Road. The CC would like to protect as much open space in this development as possible with particular regard to the wetlands that run through the property. There should be an evaluation of each of the wetland areas with the individual impact to each. (areas more than 100 sq. feet).

Further discussions and recommendations to continue at next scheduled meeting on March 2nd.

10:04 MJ made a motion to adjourn, Shelley seconded. All agreed.

Next Meeting- March 2, 2016

*Respectfully Submitted,
MaryJean MacGillivray*

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