

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: March 2, 2016

Meeting brought to order: 7:34 PM @ MV Town Hall

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

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

7:45 Presentation and Motions to Pay Bills: No Bills

7:46 Review any correspondence: The MVCC received an invitation from UNH Cooperative Extension for their Saving Special Places Conference on Sat April 9, 2016. All the MVCC is welcome to attend.

7:50 Guest Speakers – Mila Paul from the UNH Thompson School Forestry Technology Program and two additional students Amanda and Mike who are also working on our project to update the signage in a couple of areas on the Wah Lum property. The CC reviewed the proposed signage and discussed the nuances of each with some recommendations. The signage will have a reflective background for better visibility in low light. The students were also willing to review our signage needs on some of our other town owned properties and give us a cost analysis at our April Meeting.

7:56 Old Business:

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Master Plan Update - Joanne and Annette Immorlica met on Feb. 22 with Amanda Stone a wildlife mgmt. expert from the UNH County Extension Service to discuss some recommendations for the Wildlife Habitat Chapter of the Master Plan. She will review the Natural Resource chapter that Joanne and Annette had prepared but felt, based on discussion, that because they had already done so much work, and it was so thorough the CC may only need to bring in limited outside professional help to work toward a completed Natural Resource Inventory Study. Amanda Stone and her staff can assist the CC for free, and have a web site that explains the projects they can assist us with: www.TakingActionForWildlife.org.

Trail Easement Proposal- At our February meeting Annette Immorlica brought a proposal regarding some property that abuts conservation land and her property as well as additional connecting land that is owned by another party. Shelley did speak to that party so see if there was any interest in exploring the proposal to expand some existing trails. They were interested, and are willing to discuss. No meeting scheduled at this time.

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 cancelled.

The Ice out Contest is still up and running and the CC will be promoting on Town Meeting Day, March 9th. Joanne and MaryJean will set up for this with the "Fish Box" and will also have additional information

available regarding CC Projects.

8:15 New Business: Jay Wilson and MaryJean MacGillivray will renew their CC Terms.

Brett Vaughn's Proposal for Purgatory Road Development:

After careful review of the subdivision plan, the Conservation Commission strongly recommends the Planning Board review the impact to the significant wetlands involved in the proposed Purgatory Road Development Plan. We recommend an engineering study to access the culverts crossing wetlands as well as an evaluation of the impact to wetlands as indicated in the current plans.

The Conservation Commission understands the developer's need to produce a product that is economically viable for them, but the current plan allows for wetland crossings that will create too much disturbance to the wetlands, and the CC believes this disturbance is more than the property can sustain. (Specifically, Lots 15-16, 22,23 That is why the CC strongly recommends that a Wetlands Impact Study be done before the development is allowed to move forward. The MVCC prefers to assist the Planning Board in hiring a professional to do the recommended wetlands study. Jay entertained a motion on the Orchard Hill/Purgatory Road Development discussion. Joanne made motion to approve the discussed recommendations, Shelley seconded motion and all in favor.

Other recommendations for this development include:

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

Recommend a Natural Resources Study/Inventory to evaluate impact to wildlife species and habitat and recommend hiring a professional chosen by the MVCC.

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 effect of paved surface which creates more run off affecting groundwater, wildlife, insects, birds and natural vegetation. Given this is large wildlife habitat with several wetlands involved, the CC recommends the Planning Board approve this request for a waiver.

Open Space Land in this development- The Commission recommends all open space be deeded to the town to ensure proper use and management.

9:35 MaryJean made a motion to adjourn, Jay seconded. All agreed.

Next Meeting- April 13, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,
MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary