

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: August 10, 2016

Meeting brought to order: 7:32 PM @ MV Town Hall

Present: Larry Yetter, Joanne Draghetti, MaryJean MacGillivray, Earle Rich, (Garth Witty seated)

Annette Immorlicia, Planning Board Representative

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Review July Minutes - July minutes reviewed. Earle made a motion to accept minutes; Garth seconded; All present agreed. The minutes were approved.

7:45 Presentation and Motions to Pay Bills: The CC received a bill from the State of NH Dept of Corrections for the Wah Lum Trail signs we had ordered. The bill was \$11.58 more than had been previously approved for these signs. A motion was made by Earle to approve the additional \$11.58 and pay the \$411.58 invoice. Joanne seconded. All present approved. Earle provided a receipt from Blue Seal in the amount of \$37.40. Larry will forward the invoice to Joan for payment when we receive the Blue Seal invoice. We have approval to spend up to \$100 for the sign posts, and Earle will pick up additional posts when they come in.

7:46 Review any correspondence: In regard to the Wet Lands Permit for Horton Pond Road, Earle indicated that they were requesting a lot more information than previously thought. Earle has updated the permit to comply, and is expecting that more work will be done on Friday, 8/12/16.

Letter of compliance for Robert Phillips of Weare, NH regarding: Land Resources Mgmt. File #13 South Main Street, Mont Vernon, Tax Map10, Lot Number 27 reported that deficiencies have been corrected and file is closed.

Invitation from SFI-SIC for a Forestry and Sawmilling Field Day on September 23, 2016 in New London, NH. Registration at 8:30 am at the Colby-Sawyer campus.

Nashua Regional Planning- Karen Baker was seeking information that may assist the Town of Lyndeborough to identify and prioritize wetlands, and wanted to know if we had a prime wetlands ordinance. Joanne suggested that we forward a copy of the Natural Resources Chapter of our Master Plan which addresses some of the wetland concerns. All agreed and Joanne will forward.

8:10 Old Business:

Review Dow Road Parking: Larry mentioned that since the Dow Road Parking has been widened the parking he has observed seems much more in line with our parking plans, and appears to have improved overall. The question now remains do we continue to source large rocks to help designate the parking area. The consensus among the CC was to continue to monitor before we upgrade.

Signs for Wah Lum Trails: Earle has all the directional signs for Wal Lum as well as the Rules and Regulations Signs. Earle will etch our zip code on the back of these signs to discourage theft. The Rules and Regulation signage will be placed as follows: Purgatory Rd. parking by yellow gate; Dow Road

Parking, to the right of and in the general area of Kiosk; The gate at Hebert Town Forest; The gate at the Archibald Property; Parking area at Herlihey; Parking area at Havinga Woods. All the above signs have metal sign posts. The trail signage was also discussed and determined at the meeting and will be refined as each sign location dictates. **First work days to begin install are August 17 and/or 18. Starting @ 10 AM. Earle, Larry and Al MacGillivray will begin the install.**

Horton Road Pond Permit Update – Work schedule is still in process.

2016 Invasive Plant Spraying Report on meeting with Lee Gilman – Joanne provided summary of Site Walk with Lee Gilman – Invasive Species Inspection of Conservation Lands.

1. 1.Dow Road: Main target is swallow wart which is still present but to a much lesser degree. Lee will also address woody vines and grapes near edges of parking lot. We noticed ants and other insects have significantly invaded the kiosk so Lee will also do a barrier and surface treatment to prevent that from continuing.
2. 2.Archibald Property: Continue to reduce the invasive poplar trees that were treated last year and autumn olive on the right of the front entrance of parking area. Earle will take down the leaning white birch trees. Lee states this could be the last year for treating the Archibald property!
3. 3.Havinga Woods: Some sprigs of bittersweet, not much else present.
4. 4.North Wah Lum: Poison Ivy invading entrance on the right as well as the old entrance that is blocked off. Lee will also treat bittersweet that is in the hay scented ferns on the left of the parking area before the yellow gate. He recommends we do some hard work to reduce growth around the stone wall at the entrance and clean up around the old stone foundation.

The cost for these 4 sites is approx. \$580

1. 5. The View Lots: We asked Lee to target the swallow wart, which there is a lot of so he will try to do the larger patches of it. Lee recommended treating other invasives such as the multiflora roses, any other invasives, and honey suckle near trees on edge of Rangeway Road at the edge of field.

Lee will make a grid of the 4 acre View Lot property and if he sees other invasives he will spot good plants. Cost of treating View Lot with poison ivy spraying = \$1055.. Cost of treating View Lot without poison ivy spraying for path = \$580.

Lee made some suggestions regarding the pros and cons of having paths in sections of the View Lot. Paths can encourage invasives to grow and open access to predators. If we wanted to do a Pollinator Garden, possibly 10 x 10, on the View Lot, he suggested we could use pollinator plant plugs as they would be the least destructive and would provide additional flowering plants for birds and bees.

Earle made a motion to approve Lee Gillman's proposal, Joanne seconded and all agreed to contract Lee Gilman to perform the basic spraying that does not include the poison ivy at the View Lot, for a total amount of \$ 1160.00.

*In regard to the View Lot--- a question was brought up by Annette that the Lot Lines for this property are in question, and before we have the spraying done, we may want to confirm them. Garth suggested we measure off with the tax map and add a 20 foot buffer for the spraying. Annette further suggested that the abutters, the Hinkley Family, be notified and their property line on the south be staked out. The CC agreed that this would be our recommendation. Motion passed and all in agreement.

View Lots- Grassland Management – Report out on Site walk 7/14

Katherine McGee and Kary Rickroad from Natural Resources Conservation Society joined Joanne Draghetti and Shelley Brooks on a site walk on July 14th. They recommended that we get rid of as much of the invasives as possible and do no mowing until just before it snows. They made several suggestions for promoting wildlife habitat. 1. Mow late in season; 2. Start with small project such as creating a pollinator garden. 3. Use the garden as an educational tool. 3. Stagger pollinator plant blooming times. 4. There may be some funding for pollinator efforts through grants.

If the CC would like to hold an informational seminar on pollinators, Katherine McGee and or Kary Rickroad could be available to address a group of interested people. This would provide us with the opportunity to touch some of our neighbors, and help educate them get on board with pollinator protection.

Larry will contact Fred regarding the View Lot mowing and ask him to hold off until November due to the spraying in September. He will also contact Lou Springer to ask him to hold off mowing the Wah Lum View Lot until as late as he can and to also try to avoid cutting the new blueberry growth.

9:10 – Black Brook Development – Map 3, Lot 13

Discussion with Planning Board Representative, Annette Immorlica regarding Black Brook Development concerns.

Because this development involves a significant wetland area, and a stream that runs through a significant part of the property, the concern is that there are Best Practices Recommendations from the Conservation Commission that would protect riparian buffers and consider protection for the large aquifer that is in the Black Brook area. We could then possibly pursue an ordinance with protective recommendations for this property. Some of the potential recommendations that we discussed are as follows:

1. 1. Establish a minimum of a 100 foot buffer for riparian areas
2. 2. Request an environmental impact report
3. 3. Wetlands permit
4. 4. Only consider open space sub-division

At this point, CC would not recommend crossing the brook, and any endeavor to do so would definitely require an environmental impact study. If a development would be proposed, the CC would strongly recommend an open space division to the north of the property.

9:30: Recruitment of new members suggestions. We will all consider persons that we know that may be interested.

9:35: Joanne made a motion to adjourn, MaryJean seconded and all agreed.

Next meeting will be on September 21st which is the 3rd Wednesday. Larry will check with Laurie to see if there is availability for the room on that Wednesday, and we will post the required meeting change signage.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray