

## Meeting Minutes

### Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

**Meeting Date: August 9, 2017**

**Present: Joanne Draghetti, Jay Wilson, David Hagg, MaryJean MacGillivray**

**(Judy Brophy, Michelle Riesselman – Seated)**

**Meeting brought to order: 7:35 PM @ MV Fire Station**

**Review July Minutes:** Jay made a motion to accept minutes as read and Michelle seconded.

All members in agreement. July Minutes Accepted.

**7:38 Guest Speaker- Roger Pinchard** - Mr. Pinchard came before the CC with a proposal to donate a twelve acre piece of property that abuts Townes Forest and also connects to an additional 268 acre piece of conservation property that he may protect for conservation in the future. Mr. Pinchard would like to donate this 12 acre connecting piece of property to the Town of Mont Vernon if the CC could assure him that this property would not permit logging, and be kept with wildlife management as the priority. Joanne explained to Mr. Pinchard that only a conservation easement could permanently protect his wishes. He could also put his restrictions in the deed, and the deed restrictions would be less permanent but express his intent in donating the property to the town. The town has honored deed restrictions on other properties donated in the past. Jay also confirmed that having his restriction requests in the deed would be binding, and would ensure any possible conflicts in the future. Joanne suggested that the CC should do a site walk of this proposed property, and Mr. Pinchard agreed. Joanne asked if mid to late September would be agreeable to Mr. Pinchard, and he was agreeable. The CC will set a date to walk this 12 Acre property in September to look at the features. Mr. Pinchard offered that it would take approximately a couple of hours for the walk. The CC will follow up with Mr. Pinchard to set a date and time.

**8:00 Correspondence** – None to report –

**8:05 Presentation and motion to pay bills:** Joanne suggested that the CC should buy some copies of the NHACC handbook for our new members. Jay made a motion to purchase 4 handbooks and MJ seconded. All in favor, passed.

**Invasive Spraying Proposal from Lee Gilman** - Joanne reviewed the proposal from Lee Gilman with the main focus being on the View Lot as we were able to make good progress last year and need to continue the work in progress as there is also lot of poison ivy coming in along Rangeway. The entire field will be mowed in late fall. Joanne explained that the CC wants to encourage the growth of wild flowers that will in turn encourage bees, bats and birds. In order to do that, we need to get rid of the invasives as they will choke out the wildflowers and other beneficial plants. The proposed cost for spraying the six sites (Dow Road, Archibald property, Havinga Woods, North Wah Lum and the View Lots) this year is \$1,160. After much discussion regarding the proposal, Jay made a motion to expend the \$1,160 for the spraying. David seconded, all in agreement.

*Jay also suggested that in September as we will be working on the CC budget for 2018, we should review what we want to do or not do for spraying in 2018.*

**8:20 Guest Arthur Rounds** – Arthur would like to join the CC as an alternate member. He has an extensive background in photography, and an interest in helping the CC in its efforts to protect and maintain our conservation properties with particular emphasis on mapping some of the conservation properties. David made a motion to accept Arthur as an alternate member of the CC, Jay seconded, all

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in favor. Joanne told Arthur that she would send the Selectmen an email regarding his alternate status, and he should formally hear from the selectmen regarding his acceptance as an alternate of the CC.

**Old Business:**

**8:30 Update Report on Carleton Pond Project-** Jay has spoken with the selectmen regarding the funds for the Carleton Pond engineering/construction start up and explained that we are at right at the limit of our allocated funds. The selectmen assured Jay that if we get in a situation that wasn't anticipated and we needed additional funds, they would be able to help us out up to 5 K. Jay has also spoken with Dean Chappell who has equipment that he can use to selectively cut trees which will be necessary for the right side of the pond that will be more of a selective cutting. Jay has also conferred with Steve Trombley and Bill Davidson regarding the culvert crossing and they might have to redig the road. After some discussion regarding the construction and tree cutting for this project, the CC decided to meet on Thursday 8/10 at 11 AM to review the site, and get a better understanding of the construction impact on the periphery of the pond. Shelley will update our MV Chatter page regarding this project. Joanne thought that we might also put a little article in the Cabinet to make people aware of the impending construction. Shelley will email the info to Cabinet and possibly the Amherst Citizen if possible. Arthur will put something together to post at Carleton Pond that will update the public. Jay made a motion to expend up to \$100 for Arthur Rounds to buy the necessary resources. Michelle seconded, all in favor.

**8:55 NRPC Maps & Meeting with Fred Broman** - Shelley contacted the Fred Broman former UNH Forester and got a list of town owned property. Not all the properties had complete information. Without that information it makes it difficult to connect tax lot number with the deeds. Shelley did get a list from the town of the properties that they believe they own. Only about a third have both the book and page numbers which make it much easier to put together the information. Shelley has found that even going to the Hillsborough Registry of deeds, there still wasn't always a connection between the tax lots and the deeds. Shelley has also gotten info from the NRPC which she found to have many changes from the information we currently have. Shelley also contacted Wes Robertson, past chair of MVCC, and he indicated that he left info at the town hall regarding some of the lots including the Hebert Town Forest. This is an ongoing work in progress with many caveats that will take the CC a good deal of time to complete.

**Grants-** Shelley has applied for a grant to the Milford Rotary and they seem very interested. They

are interested in costs for the walkways, and how many people will be using. Jay feels that the cost of the gravel and fill will be an approx cost. Jay will help Shelley with some of the costs of the project so she will have a base to use.

**9:20 Illegal camping/fires near MV line** – David has walked the property and Cheever Lane is the approximate line where Purgatory Brook becomes Mont Vernon. David found 3 fire pits between the upper and middle falls. David destroyed the pits and dug them all out and covered them. He will walk the lower section next week. David asked that we discuss marking some of the secondary trails at our next meeting. Michelle suggested that if we can set a date and time and put on MV Chatter that we might have some success getting volunteers. David also suggested that we try to get volunteers that might be interested in trail work at Lamsom Farm Day this September.

**Rules and Regs Signs for Conservation Land-Earle Rich** (not in attendance)

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**. Joanne will email Earle Rich regarding status of Rules and Regs signs.**

**. Sept. meeting: Wetlands Guest Speaker, Barbara Richter, NH Assoc. of Conservation Com.**

The CC needs to prep Barbara Richter with questions and topics that we feel would benefit us

prior to the Sept. mtg. *(The CC will develop questions for discussion, and Joanne will forward to her before our meeting in September.*

**9:30 New Business****Wetland Permit for Orchard Hill Subdivision – David Haag**

The Conservation Commission did not sign the “expedited wetlands permit” and not sure if the permit was acknowledged or recognized as unreasonable.

David suggested that as private citizens we can individually send a letter to permitting authority expressing our concerns.

**9:40 Lamson Farm Day Booth and Volunteers** – The CC would like to have a table/booth at Lamson Farm Day to have a display as well as the information regarding the Carleton Pond Project. David, MaryJean, Michelle, and Shelley will work together to man the booth.

**9:45 Public Time – Guest** –Frank Oudheusden who has moved to Mont Vernon with his family and lives on Lamson Road. He has meet Earle Rich from attending some of the Lamson Farm Committee meetings. He and his family are enjoying being in Mont Vernon and especially enjoy Lamson Farm. He is interested in helping the CC with trail work and possibly other projects that arise.

Joanne thanked him for attending our meeting, and invited him to attend future meetings if he would like.

9:50 David made a motion to adjourn, MJ seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray

Next Meeting: September 13, 2017