

## Meeting Minutes

### Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: February 13, 2019

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

Present: Joanne Draghetti, Jay Wilson, MaryJean MacGillivray, Shelley Brooks, Adrienne Penkacik,  
Garth Whitty (seated) Peter Tedder (seated)

7:32-7:40 January Meeting Minutes Reviewed...Jay made a motion to approve, Garth seconded.

**7:42- Correspondence:** Received email from *Ethan Blair Hillsborough County* with information regarding upcoming meeting with the Stoddard CC and the Coyote Pup Protection Bill in Concord. *Bonnie Angulus and Zoe Fimbel* contacted the CC regarding their plans to host a snowshoe hike on Lamson Farm during February school vacation (snow permitting). Joanne directed them to the Lamson Farm Commission for further info.

#### Old Business:

**Carleton Pond Update:** Jay explained the dynamics of the cross culvert that will be put in place to carry the overflow water from the trench on the right side of the pond. The overflow will be directed through the cross culvert into the pond catch basin. Jay is going to contact Bill Davidson to concur on the pond engineering plans for presentation at Town Meeting. Joanne has informational pieces that will help explain the pond project and will have as handouts at Town Meeting. Joanne will also put the pond information on the Town Web Site prior to Town Meeting.

**Wetland Protection Update cancelled and will be rescheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**

**Purgatory Trail** – Shelley Brooks and Larry Yetter report recommendations regarding the Purgatory Brook trail near the Lower Falls. This portion of the trail along the Purgatory Brook is privately owned and the owners have taken down a substantial number of trees which has contributed to erosion and flooding. Shelley explained that Larry, who has experience with AMC, suggested that we could use rocks to build a trail through that wet area to make it passable. This would also allow for water flow and also allow people to walk along the trail to and from the lower falls. This venture would involve help from DPW with the delivery and placement of the rocks as well as permission of the owner. There are several caveats that need to be addressed namely we would need to get an easement from the private land owner before we could do any repairs. Garth suggested that before we make any plans, we need to meet with the land owner involved to discuss recovering the trail on his property before we think about getting an easement to do the work. The CC agreed. Shelley will attempt to contact the land owner to see if they would be open to our repairing the trail on their property. As the Purgatory Brook continues beyond this property the land is owned by Granite State Concrete. David Fitch owns the land on the other side of the brook and this might be a possibility for a crossing bridge as well. This is also the last part of the brook with Mont Vernon stewardship. Lyndeborough CC is responsible for care of the brook going further south on the brook. Joanne reported that we also have a much larger bridge, the Purgatory Bridge that has totally collapsed on Purgatory Brook. This bridge crosses from Mont Vernon property to Lyndeborough property and is

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located closer to the middle falls. The CC felt that this bridge had a life span of approximately 10 years before it collapsed. Jeff Johnson, is researching the best options for this bridge and is checking with Wilkins Lumber regarding their Hemlock Inventory. Because this bridge crosses the brook (water) there can be no pressure treated wood. Joanne will contact Lyndeborough CC to see if they would be willing to share in the labor and expenses for replacing this bridge.

**Dark Skies Night Lecture at Library: March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM:** Matthew Morrulla from NH Astronomical Society discusses *Light Pollution* and how it affects the night sky and migrating birds. Shelley will put notification on Facebook and MV Chatter. Currently there is legislature being proposed in Concord to Require towns outside lighting to comply with IDA approved lighting. Joanne added that any Carleton Pond lighting will be in compliance with IDA regulations.

**New Business: Dow Road Timber Cut.** The MVCC was called to check on a possible timber cut/ Wetland violation taking place on Dow Road and to verify that there were no issues of trespass on private or town owned property. Joanne and MaryJean responded to this suspect violaton only to find that the builder was in compliance and there was no trespass. This meeting with the harvesting crew/builder presented an opportunity to hear their concerns regarding their ability to get information from the towns where the harvest is being taken. Evidently, every town has their own unique rules and regulations regarding timber cutting and they are not presented to the builders/harvesters at the time they get their *Intent To Cut Permit*. The builders/harvesters suggested that each town should have the ordinances available. *Garth suggested that when the Intent To Cut Permit is issued the wetland easement and ordinances should be stapled to the permit.* Garth said that all builders are supposed to file an intent to cut as the selectmen use this to evaluate the timber tax. Joanne will check with the Town Hall for more info.

**GIS Mapping:** Shelley will be meeting with NRPC this week and hopes to have the updated town map which highlights our conserved lands. Joanne asked if we could have a PDF and or something we could download off their site as it would make it more accessible for making additional copies. The small ones are more convenient for off site use. We all agreed that we should have one big map and some smaller ones as well.

**Monitoring Conservation Easements:** Shelley Brooks has proposed a property that is off of Brook Road. It is on our topo map and connects to the Carl Smith easement. Shelley has reviewed the forms that are required for submission after monitoring the property. When we do the walk we want to find the steel posts. Shelley would like to GPS the markers at some point. Joanne asked what should be our next step. Shelley will try to locate the owner to get permission for the walk. If there are four or more members of the CC that would like to do the walk, we will need to post it at the Town Hall and at the PO.

**Snowshoe Biathlon-** Garth attended by video a snowshoe biathlon in Manchester,VT that used antique firearms. Garth explained the dynamics of this event and told us that the MV Rod & Gun Club would like to host a similar event in Mont Vernon that would be open to the public. Joanne explained that one of the rules on our conservation lands is **firearms only for hunting during hunting season.** Joanne further suggested that Lamson Farm may be a better venue as there is better available parking and great access to trails and woods. Garth said that he would contact Lamson Farm to see if there is any interest.

**9:30:** MJ made a motion to adjourn, Garth seconded

**Next CC Meeting Friday March 8th, 2019 (Joanne will post mtg. change)**

**Town Meeting March 13, 2019**

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary