

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: February 8, 2017

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

**Present: Larry Yetter, MaryJean MacGillivray, David Haag (seated), Shelley Brooks,
Tom Wahle (seated)**

Review January Minutes: Shelley made a motion to accept minutes as read and David seconded.

All members in agreement.

7:45 Review Correspondence: Larry received an email from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions regarding the Souhegan Sustainability Fair that is being held at the Wilton/Lyndeborough High School on Earth Day, April 22, 2017 from 10AM-4PM. The NHACC is extending a special invitation to the 12 conservation commissions within the NH Souhegan River watershed. This event creates the opportunity for roundtable discussions for conservations commissions, recycle centers, energy committees, etc. The object will be to share best practices and learn from each other. Collectively we'd have a stronger voice, the power to affect changes that could benefit all of us.

7:50 Review Details and Ideas of the above correspondence: The NHACC asked us to submit some topics that we think are most critical for this group to address at the April 2017 conference. Larry asked the MVCC to suggest some possible topics that we feel would be appropriate to bring up for discussion.

According to the information we received, there are plans to hold a round table discussion with the 12 conservation commissions and that would involve some attendance on behalf of the MVCC. This is scheduled to be a family friendly event featuring speakers, exhibits and workshops. The following talking points will be submitted:

1. **1. Wetland Buffer Zones**--Current regulations regarding wetlands. Is State Law sufficient or do we need additional or more inclusive regulations. What are other towns doing?
2. **2. Wildlife Corridors**—Specifically ones that abut wetlands. What towns have wildlife corridors, and are they connectable to other wildlife corridors or conservation
3. **3. Invasive Plants**—Identification, eradication and resources to combat.
4. **4. Light Pollution** – Identify the disruptions to wildlife and the solutions to make changes.

Tom Wahle is planning to be there with the Hillsborough Renewable Energy Initiative with a Solar Array Display. The MVCC will plan to have further discussion regarding this conference and our commitment for participation in our March Meeting on 3/1/17

Shelley brought up the point that having an updated map of the conservation land and conservation easement properties not only in Mont Vernon but in the surrounding towns would be very helpful. Shelley believes that there is an organization that does this and would be worthwhile to contact them. Shelley believes Joanne may be able to help us with this info, and will email Joanne to see if she can provide us with contact information. Shelley's point is that if we had a map that showed the conservation lands and wildlife corridors for this part of the state that would be a valuable tool to enable further efforts for connecting them on a larger scale.

Old Business - Orchard Hill Development. At this point in time the MVCC has not had any updates.

NH DES – Wetlands Division Invitation to Speak in Mont Vernon Regarding Wetlands – Larry has contacted and received a reply that they could send a speaker sometime in March or April.

Some of the possible topics that we feel would be relevant for us are:

Best management practices and a sustainable forest initiative and how it addresses wetlands.

What are the prerequisites for obtaining Wetland Permits?

What are some of the criteria that we need to know regarding variances for stream crossings, docks, and wetlands permits?

What role does a conservation commission play in wetland permits?

What resources and/or training are available for conservation commissions for educating and enabling them in the best management regulations?

Larry will list and send the above suggestions for a DES speaking engagement and suggest an April Meeting.

New Business:

Warrant Article Discussion, Voting Day and Town Meeting

Monday, February 13th – Selectmen discuss warrant articles @ 7 PM Public Hearing

The chairpersons for the Town Committees are asked to go and Larry will plan to be there.

Tuesday, March 14th- Voting Day- MVCC will have information and easel with Carleton Pond Project

Wednesday, March 15th – **Town Meeting at 7PM**

The MVCC plans to have a presence at the school on Voting Day. MJ will contact Earle to see if he has the easel and Joanne to see if she has some Carleton Pond Info Handouts. We will also try to have a physical presence there during high volume voting hours. Shelley will update our Facebook Page and it will be then shared to Mont Vernon Chatter, and Joanne can update our Webpage with this info. Larry will be prepared to stand up and introduce the Conservation Warrant Articles. Larry will plan to address any issues and/or questions that come up regarding the Carleton Pond Project.

Signage at Carleton and Horton Pond- Shelley brought to the attention of the CC that the signage at both Carleton and Horton Ponds has degraded to the point where they are almost unreadable and should be replaced and or updated. Tom Wahle offered to check out both signs and evaluate what is needed to upgrade or replace these signs. He will also confer with Earle to see if he has any suggestions for this project.

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Winter Carnival and Ice Out Contest - The CC has not been able to retrieve the diving flag used to signal the ICE OUT date. Earle was going to evaluate the situation to see if we could still retrieve.

There were a couple of suggestions made regarding how we could insert a “flag” into the ice so that we could still have the Ice Out Contest, which was a wonderful opportunity to inform MV residents about the Carleton Pond Project and how it would benefit the town for recreation. Tom will contact Earle to see if they could develop a new pop up flag for this event. If the contest is possible, Larry get the tickets printed up and will ask if he can put Ice Out Contest Tickets at the Library. We will also ask the General Store if we could place the tickets there as well. We are still hopeful that we can also have a Winter Carnival in early March which will depend on CC availability and weather.

Review MVCC Member Status- Larry brought to our attention that there are a couple of regular members whose term is expiring, namely Larry and Jim Bird. Larry is resigning and Jim has said he

would remain on the CC as an Alternate Member. Tom Wahle will continue as Alternate Member and Earle Rich has asked to be changed to an alternate member in the middle of his term. David Haag will be a regular member along with Jay, Joanne, Shelley and MaryJean. We will then have five full time members and four alternates. The CC will advertise/inquire about adding two full time members to the CC in order to have a full commission. Larry will pass this information along to Laurie. David suggested that we put on the MV Webpage that we have some openings.

Due to unavailability of three of our regular CC members on March 8th, a motion was made to hold the next CC Meeting on March 1st. Larry told us that the meeting room is available. Shelley made a motion to accept March 1st @ 7:30 PM and David seconded. Larry will post the notice of change in date.

8:45 MJ made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Shelley seconded and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary

Possible agenda items for March:

1. Review the details for Carleton Pond Presentation and Warrant Articles

Tom Wahle suggested we plant a new Christmas Tree at the Town Hall to prepare for the eventual loss of the existing Christmas Tree.