

## Meeting Minutes

### Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

**Meeting Date: January 11, 2017**

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

**Present: Jay Wilson, Joanne Draghetti, MaryJean MacGillivray, Shelley Brooks, David Haag, (Seated), Earle Rich, Annette Immorlica, Planning Board Representative**

**Review December Minutes** – Minutes reviewed. Earle made a motion to accept minutes as presented; Shelley seconded. All present agreed. The minutes were approved.

**7:45 Presentation and Motions to Pay Bills:** No new Bills to report

**7:46 Review any correspondence:** Jay received information regarding the Souhegan Sustainability Fair to be held on April 22, 2017. Further discussion regarding the particulars of this Fair was tabled for our next regular meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**New Information:** The CC was saddened to hear the news that Jan Havinga had passed away on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Jan and his wife Mimi Havinga donated 20 acres of their property to the Town of Mont Vernon to be kept in Conservation. This property and the trails on the property are referred to today as Havinga Woods. A Kiosk has been erected with information on this property. The CC will make note of Jan's passing in our local papers.

**Guest Speaker:** Andrew Pieper, Boy Scout from Amherst Troop who completed work on the trail at Havinga Woods for the MVCC. Andrew came to the meeting to donate funds he had raised for the Havinga Woods Trail Project. He presented the CC with a check for \$63.27. The CC was very appreciative of his donation, and told him the money would be put to good use. The CC also suggested to Andrew that if there were any other scouts in his troop that would be interested in doing a conservation project, we would be happy to speak with them. At this point, we shared with Andrew and his mother that his work on the Havinga Woods Trails was all the more meaningful today, as we had just learned that Jan Havinga had passed away.

**8:50 Old Business** – Jay explained to the CC that per the Selectmen, there was an update to the information regarding the Carleton Timber Tax Revenue which will require the CC to make a change to the previously submitted 2017 Warrant Articles. The CC adjusted the 2017 Articles as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Warrant Article will ask for \$15,000 from the Carleton Timber Cut to be allocated to the Carleton Pond Project. 2<sup>nd</sup> Warrant Article will ask the Town for \$15,000 to be put into the capital reserve fund for the Carleton Pond project. Joanne made a motion to make changes to the 2017 CC Warrant Articles as stated above. MJ seconded. Joanne will contact Laurie so that she can make these changes before the Town Report goes to print. The Timber Tax Warrant Article will be brought up for discussion first. At that point, if Article #1 doesn't pass, we will still be able to amend if needed the CC Warrant Article # 2. All present agreed, and the motion passed.

**Purgatory Road Update:** Joanne, MaryJean, Shelley and Annette PB Representative attended the Planning Board Meeting on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and were able to provide an update from the PB. The New Orchard Hill plan, with road calculations, was reviewed for this discussion. Jay questioned what the final

determination on Purgatory Road was. As of the Jan 10th PB Meeting, the road will be paved until just prior to the last driveway, which is referred to as Station 19 and this is where the road actually levels out. The road will be 20 feet wide. The question of Mr. Vaughn putting some of the property in the back of the

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development in a Conservation easement was brought up. Mr. Vaughn was not in attendance, but Chad, engineer on this project, was in attendance and said that Mr. Vaughn might be willing to explore the possibility of a conservation easement if it would be financially beneficial. Chad said the Mr. Vaughn would need to be presented with more information, specifically tax incentives. Joanne asked Chad that if the CC could get the information needed to review the viability of a conservation easement, and possibly bring in an outside expert from UNH, would Mr. Vaughn be willing to come to a meeting. Chad explained that because of time constraints regarding this project, we would have to meet with Mr. Vaughn as soon as possible. Mr. Vaughn would like to start the project in two months. The CC set a date of January 25<sup>th</sup> to meet with Mr. Vaughn. Joanne, will contact UNH to see if a speaker is available for 1/25/17 and assemble as much info as possible on the viability and desirability of conservation easements for this meeting. Jay asked Joanne to contact Mr. Vaughn and Chad to see if they could attend the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> as soon as we confirmed the date with UNH. Because the CC will need to meet prior to our regular scheduled meeting, the CC will recess this meeting to the 25<sup>th</sup> to have the Conservation Easement discussion with Mr. Vaughn and Chad. Jay will have Laurie post the minutes to acknowledge this meeting.

In addition, the Planning Board has received the intent for subdivision on Jennison Road from Riley. If there are no changes from the 2007 proposal, Riley will not have to come before the PB.

**New Business:** Winter Carnival status- Shelley said that because of the weather so far this winter, the ice and or snow have not cooperated in our endeavor to hold the carnival. We may also be able to do the Ice Out Contest if we can get the proper buoy. Earle said that he would check with Tom about the buoy.

Snowmobiles at WahLum- Gate Opening Process- The MVCC requires that there be at least six inches of snow on the ground. When there is enough snow, the MVCC will unlock the gate to allow the snowmobiles entry. If there is a snow melt, the CC will go back and close the gate. Joanne and Barry have volunteered to monitor the gate opening, but everyone on the MVCC should understand the dynamics involved. There are all the snowmobiling regulations on our website and at the Kiosks.

Earle Rich member of the MVCC asked to change his status from full member to alternate due to his increased work commitments. The board sadly agreed, and this change will become effective in April 2017. This is when the appointments are made by the selectmen. Garth noted that we will need to notify the Selectmen that we will need to fill this appointment if Earle's tenure is not up.

9:15: Jay made a motion to recess this meeting to January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM to take up the following two items only:

1. Winter Carnival
2. Orchard Hill Subdivision

Shelley seconded, and all in favor. Jay will email the Selectmen to inform them that we have recessed this meeting to January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM. The selectmen will post a notice on the Town Web Page to make this recessed meeting available to the public.

Respectfully Submitted,  
MaryJean MacGillivray

**Next Regular Meeting February 8, 2017**