

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: July 13, 2016

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

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

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Review June Minutes - June minutes reviewed. Shelley made a motion to accept minutes; Earle seconded; Joanne abstained. The minutes were approved.

7:45 Presentation and Motions to Pay Bills: Garth notified the Commission that the Town of MV now has a charge at Blue Seal Feed with a 15% discount off the top. The Town also has charge privileges at the County Store and Milford Lumber. Any approved purchases that we make to these accounts will be accountable to the Conservation Commission.

7:46 Review any correspondence: Larry received a newsletter from the Piscataquog Land Conservancy and one from NHDES which he offered for our review.

Eagle Scout Project Workday @ Havigna Woods on July 9 Report- Larry reported that Andrew Pieper is making progress on the Havigna Woods Trail. He started his clean up at the trail head and is working his way down the trail. He has pulled quite a few stones off the trail and is using them as a trail edging. Shelley mentioned that she had gone to Havigna Woods and met with Andrew. She also did some trail work, namely, pulling more poison ivy.

8:00: Scheduled Speakers:

Sharon Akers from the Lyndeborough CC met with us to discuss coordinating the signage that we are putting on the MV side of the Purgatory Brook with what the Lyndeborough CC is doing. She brought a couple of the signs that they will be using to help hikers navigate the brook. Sharon had also worked with Mila from UNH, as the MVCC did, so the signage both conservation commissions are using reflect much of the same verbiage and appearance. Joanne explained the location of some of our signs and how we were securing them to guard against theft. Because the MV Fire Dept. has received several calls from people who have gotten lost while hiking the brook, both conservation commissions are addressing the areas where there has been some confusion, and are hopeful that the additional signage will make both sides of the brook more user friendly. Joanne suggested to Sharon that we have put trail maps in our kiosks on Dow Road and at the View Lot on Purgatory Road. In addition, Joanne suggested that the map at the kiosk should show the current location with a **"you are here"** noted on the kiosk map to help new hikers. Larry has an updated version of the Purgatory Brook Trail System Map that he will send to all the MVCC. Earle also suggested that we should encourage hikers to take a photo of the trail map with their phones which may be more user friendly and save on paper. Before Sharon left she shared some informational

books that the Lyndeborough CC has been using: A Natural Resource Inventory of Lyndeborough by Joseph Trudeau and Invasive Plant Medicine by Timothy Lee Scott.

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Ray Shea regarding Old Amherst Road Wetland Permit- Mr. Shea has submitted a Dredge & Fill Permit to the state for the 25 acre house lot on Old Amherst Road that has a 50 foot frontage on the road. The Hydraulic Analysis by TES Environmental Consultants which involves the 5 ft culvert for drainage and 512 square feet of wetland impact has been submitted to the State and to the MV Planning Board for approval and he has asked the Planning Board for waiver for the mitigation to that to that requirement. To over ride any wetland impact they will be using an oversized culvert with a natural bottom. Mr. Shea asked for our comments and for our approval. Jay made a motion to move the process forward and that the CC has no objection. Jay said "we have no issues with the project as presented". Earle seconded, Garth abstained all other members approved. Larry will draft letter to state and copy the planning board.

Annette Immorlicia (Planning Board Representative) brought plans for a subdivision of the land owned by Vibert's, Map 3, Lot 13 at 58 Hazen Road. Annette brought up the provision in the plan to protect Black Brook. Joanne wanted to know if CC could make a recommendations to PB such as putting a protective buffer on Black Brook. Annette believes that the Town of MV reserves the right to put protective measures in place for the protection of Black Brook as mutually agreed upon with the MV Planning Board. Joanne asked if the CC could put this question of Protective Measures on the CC docket to review at a later date.

8:40 Old Business:

Dow Road Parking Area – Jay suggested that we could use old telephone poles to delineate the parking area; either placed horizontally or cut to stand upright at a pre-determined height. At this time, DPW is having a difficult time finding rocks that would work and will need to find another source for rocks. The CC prefers rock over the telephone poles and will look for some additional options. Larry will review pictures from trail camera to see if parking behavior has improved since area was enlarged.

Horton Pond Road Permit – Steve Tromblay came out to site to complete the work needed for install of the pumps and the dry hydrant. Dredging permit application will be submitted shortly.

Invasive Plant Spraying with Lee Gilman – Earle and Joanne will meet with Lee on 8/10 @ 1 PM to clarify the work that Lee is proposing. Out next CC meeting is also 8/10, and the CC will review the proposal at the meeting and make any changes that we feel are needed. Shelley reported that there is a way to document sightings of invasive plants on a smart phone and she and David Brooks have been working on how to best use this tool.

View Lots-Grassland Management- Site Walk with Catherine McGee, soil conservationist from NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). Joanne and Shelley will meet with her on Wednesday, 7/14 @ 10 AM at the View Lot on Rt. 13 to get her advice on how to deal with invasive plants and any additional recommendations to promote pollinators. Joanne would also like to get her opinion, pros & cons, on using a burning as a way to control invasives.

MVCC Grant Opportunity- The Christopher Reeves Foundation Grant that Shelley explored would have a stipulation that there would need to be handicap and wheelchair access around the pond which would increase the overall cost of the project. Annette said she thought that the Selectmen should be consulted before we could accept any ADA type of grant. The other issue that the MVCC is encountering regarding the feasibility of grant money is the time line that would be specified by the grantor to use the money. At this point, the MVCC is looking at a possible 3-4 year time line before the project even gets under way, which would not be compatible with receiving grants at this juncture. We are still going to explore all

possibilities and there is a community grant that was advertised in the Amherst Citizen that we will try to get more information on. Shelley said she would check with David Brooks to see if he could access prior issues of the newspaper for the info we need.

8:55 New Business – Jay informed the CC that there had been a fire issue on the clear cut property on Purgatory Road involving Fireworks. There is a clear cut of approx 5 acres and there was no Intent to Cut Permit requested. In addition, the owner will have to pay the timber tax to the town that is due, which will be determined by the stump cut. The owner will also be billed for the Fire Dept. Response. The NH Division of Forests and Lands has been notified by the town and will investigate further regarding failure to file permit to cut to see if any action should be taken.

David Hall Sr. subdivision parking area- There is a possibility of a trail that could connect the parking area to the Secomb Road ext. trail. At this time there is not trail, so the question is who puts the trail in; the town or the developer? The CC suggested that this could be an Eagle Scout Project or possibly David could bulldoze to make this a connecting trail? It will be added to our “to do” list.

9:10 Jay made a motion to adjourn, Joanne seconded and all agreed.

Our next meeting will be August 10, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary