

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: July 19, 2017

Present: Joanne Draghetti, Jay Wilson, David Hagg, MaryJean MacGillivray, Earle Rich (seated), Judy Brophy (not seated, waiting for Selectmen Confirmation)

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

Review June Minutes: Earle made a motion to accept minutes as read and David seconded. All members in agreement. June Minutes Accepted.

Presentation to pay bills: Earle presented receipt for trail camera and card purchase. Jay made a motion to reimburse Earle \$166.98 and David seconded. Motion approved.

7:50 Review Correspondence: David Haag reported that no relevant correspondence was received. Joanne did receive an email from a Brenda Annan in regard to concern about water quality/pollution at the upper falls. Shelley Brooks did check out the area and reported to Joanne that the discoloration and the foam was naturally occurring from the breakdown of plant matter. Joanne responded to Brenda Annan with that information and sent her a link that would give her information regarding this issue. Joanne received an email from Fred Broman, a retired UNH Forester. He is currently working on a project called Granit Map Making. Joanne responded that MVCC member Shelley Brooks is working on a similar project for MV and may be interested in speaking to him. We have not had a reply from him to date.

Guests: Arthur Rounds – Arthur is a MV resident and photographer who has expressed an interest in working as a volunteer to assist the CC where needed. He contacted Joanne recently for some direction as to where he could start. Joanne suggested the Hebert Town Forest. Tonight Arthur reported that he has walked the Hebert property three times and presented the CC with a GPS Satellite Photo and a to-do-list of suggestions that he felt would be productive to making the Hebert Town Forest more user friendly. Arthur also reported that because there was a lot of tall grass along the main trail there were also a lot of ticks. The CC is going to immediately address this issue and see if Lou Springer can mow the trail. Arthur will wait until the main path is mowed and then will proceed to do some trail marking. David will check on the mowing status and email Arthur when it is cut. David will also report the status to CC at the August 9th meeting.

Michelle Riesselman – Michelle is interested in joining the CC. She and her husband Matthew Harrah moved to MV this past January and are excited to be part of this community. Joanne asked Michelle to tell us some of her reasons for wanting to be on the CC. Michelle said she believes in order to make the most out of living in her new home and small community it is important to become actively involved and engaged in it. Therefore I'd like to volunteer to be on the CC. I am an avid outdoors person enjoying hiking, biking, golfing and kayaking. I'd very much like to be part of this team in our new town we call home. Michelle said she has previously worked as a park ranger in Iowa. Joanne presented Michelle an overview of some of the duties that the CC is responsible for so that she had a more complete understanding of the position. Jay added that if there are any reported violations on town owned property the CC is also required to an inspection and any required follow up. Michelle said that she would like to be considered for the CC. Joanne further explained that she has the option of being an alternate member which is a good way to "test the water". A full time member requires a three year commitment, and after she has participated for a while as an alternate, she will still have the option to be a full fledged member. Michelle chose starting with the "alternate" status. Earle made a motion to accept Michelle as an alternate member and notify the Selectmen of her intentions. Jay seconded. Jay will take this info to the selectmen this week. Jay will also check on the status of Judy Brophy's acceptance as a CC alternate.

8:00 Old Business Continued:**2.**

Carleton Pond Project - In response to notification from the Planning Board regarding the requirements for construction of the pond walls, Jay contacted Bill Davidson, the project engineer regarding these concerns. It appears that the information that was presented by the PB was for a retention pond, which Carleton Pond is not, and the laws presented by PB were applicable to the state of NY. Bill Davidson, our project engineer, assured the CC that the plans for Carleton Pond have been approved by the State of NH DES and Bill Davidson further stated that the information we received from PB did not apply to the Carleton Pond Project. Our plans are 100%. Jay and Bill Davidson will attend the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss the CP Plans and the status of the project. Jay further shared that Steve Trombley has been selected as the contractor that will be responsible for the dredging and construction done at the pond. Joanne asked for a motion to accept Mr. Trombley: MaryJean made a Motion to accept Steve Trombley as contractor for CP Project. Earle seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Trombley has done work for the town before, and is highly respected. He is hoping to start construction in September. Joanne thanked Jay for all the work he has been doing on the CP Project.

Fund Raising/Grants-Shelley Brooks has been looking into possible grant opportunities for this project, specifically, the gravel path that will surround the pond after the upgrade to the pond is completed. Shelley is still planning to apply to the Reeves Foundation grant relating to the "handicapped" walkway that will be built around the pond. There is also a possibility that the Milford Rotary may have monies that might be applicable to this project. Shelley is planning to explore that grant possibility next.

NRPC Maps – Fred Broman, retired UNH Forester is working on website that does GPS maps, etc. updating town lands for Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties. He has contacted the MV Town Hall with questions and because Shelley is researching all the deeds for town owned properties, she will contact him to see if she could help him as well as employ some of his expertise with her work to update the MV Town map and deeds associated with old town owned properties.

Orchard Hill Conservation Easement – Have had not reply to date from Mr. Vaughn,. It has been a month since information was sent to him.

Funding Source-Surveying Properties: The pros and cons of the funding source for the surveying of town owned properties were discussed at length. The options being a warrant article, or a line item in the CC budget. In conclusion, it was decided that we need to ask the selectmen what they think would be the most appropriate means of funding for this long overdue project. We will look at this issue again in September after discussion with Selectmen.

Illegal Camping/fires- David will check on any signs of illegal camping/fires along Purgatory Brook in Mont Vernon.

New Business:

Cheever Lane Encroachment - A 20 foot stretch of conservation land that leads to the back of subdivision and an additional 80 acres of land that runs along Purgatory Brook has been violated by a contractor building a new house. This violation has been inspected by Mike our road agent and Steve Roberge the building inspector. David Haag said the surveyor has come and noted the changes, and the contractor will move the illegal driveway/road to rectify this problem. David will monitor the changes.

CC Rules and Regulation Signs: It has become very apparent and the CC has had complaints that there has been illegal target practicing at the Hebert Town forest property. Earle has some Rules and Regulations Signs and will post one at the Hebert Property. Joanne will contact Chief Furlough about this additional signage so that the MV Police will have proof for enforcement. Earle will need cement and some help to install the sign. Joanne asked if

Earle could place the sign out front by the gate for better visibility. Earle will ask Tom Wahle for help. If Tom is not available, Earle will let Joanne know and her husband Barry or MaryJean's husband Al will help if available. Earle will need to buy cement for the sign placement. Jay made a motion to expend up to \$25 for cement for sign post at Hebert. David seconded and all approved. Earle would also like to move the remaining

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signs/posts from his home. Jay suggested the DPW Sign Shed with proper CC signage denoting our ownership. This would make the signs more accessible for other members when needed. Joanne suggested that we may also be able to install similar signs at the Archibald and Horton Pond properties.

8:50 Invasive Species Spraying: Joanne will contact Lee Gilman to arrange a time for him to come and spray infected areas of town owned property sometime in September.

Barbara Reicter- Guest Speaker to answer questions we have about wetlands and how to maintain and preserve them. She has asked the CC to have specific questions that we would like to address prior to her speaking. Joanne suggested the the NH DES Website has lots of info fact sheets pertaining to wetlands that we could avail ourselves of. Having specific questions for Barbara Richter would allow us to focus on issues that are a priority for us. David Hagg also mentioned that the Sustainable forestry Initiative also has a lot of wetlands info. Joanne plans to email Barbara Reicter our questions prior to her visit so she can focus on the areas of our concern.

8:55 Public Time- Earle mentioned that Lamson Farm Day is September 30th, and wanted to know if the CC will have any kind of exhibition. Joanne will put this on the August agenda for discussion.

Names, phone numbers and email of commission members to only be shared between us. David suggested that this info could facilitate contact as needed. Joanne asked if everyone was comfortable with David compiling this directory for us. All approved, and will send info to David.

Illegal Dumping at North Wahlum – Police would like CC to place an additional camera to help with identification as there has been more illegal dumping at N Wahlum and the single camera has not been able to capture all the info needed to pursue the violation.

Alternate CC Members Seated: Jay suggested that when our new alternates have been confirmed, hopefully for our next meeting we should have them seated in order to have a full seven member board.

9:15: Jay made a motion to adjourn, David seconded, all agreed.

Next Meeting: August 9th

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary