

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: June 7, 2017

Present: Joanne Draghetti, David Hagg, Shelley Brooks, MaryJean MacGillivray

Jay Wilson, Earle Rich (seated)

Meeting brought to order: 7:35 PM @ MV Town Hall

Review April Minutes: Earle made a motion to accept minutes as read and Jay seconded.

All members in agreement. April Minutes Accepted.

Presentation to pay bills: Joanne reminded Earle that he should submit the invoice for the trail cam.

Earle agreed and will submit to Laurie.

7:45 Review Correspondence: David Hagg reported that no correspondence was received.

Joanne did receive an email request from Madisyn Emily regarding camping @ WahLum. Joanne responded and asked for additional information regarding the date of the proposed camping and how many people in the party. Joanne also told her that camping at the falls is not allowed. To date Ms. Emily has not responded to our email. Joanne suggested that under New Business we review our camping policy.

Guest: Judy Brophy—Judy expressed an interest in joining the MVCC, and explained that she

has lived in Mont Vernon for 33 years and has served as a Library Trustee. Judy said she feels that open space and conservation are important for the town to have, and has always been supportive of the conservation efforts for the town. She is an AMC member and has done trail work on the Wah Pac trail.

Joanne presented an overview of some of the responsibilities that the CC has and also explained that she did have the option to be a seated member with a three year term or join as an alternate. Jay let Judy know that the decision was totally up to her and asked which option she would prefer. Judy said that at this juncture she would like to join as an alternate. Jay then made a motion to have Judy Brophy join the MVCC as an alternate, Earle seconded and all agreed. Joanne will send this request to the Selectmen for confirmation. Judy will receive a confirmation from them. Welcome Judy!

7:50 Old Business: Carleton Pond Update-Jay gave us and update on the contractor bidding for the Carleton Pond Project. To date there have not been any bids submitted, but believes that two companies that are currently in the middle of projects were going to submit bids, and we are probably a week away from hearing back from them. Two other companies that Jay contacted are unable to bid at this time because they are already scheduled out.

Carleton Pond/CC Display Board - Earle informed the CC that the CC project display board (A-frame) has been stored in the barn at Lamson Farm and is in need of some work. The photos in particular will need to be updated. Jay suggested that we wait to touch basis with the Carleton Pond contractors first to see what kind of a time frame we have before we upgrade and update the board. Earle said he will wait for further instructions.

Carleton Pond Grant Investigation- Shelley contacted Crotched Mtn. regarding their handicapped trail not only to see the construction, but also to get information regarding the building requirements necessary to obtain grant money. Shelley and MaryJean went for a tour of their trail that went through field and forest and over brooks. The trail was quite wide, approximately 5 feet, to accommodate wheelchairs, and was costly to build. The estimate that we were given was \$30 to \$50 a foot depending on the terrain. Shelley has investigated the Christopher Reeves Grant for handicapped accessible projects and found that some of the language in the grant specifications may be difficult to comply with for the Carleton Pond Project. The CRG is very specific about spinal cord injuries and that info is not readily available. Shelley has also contacted many groups that service the handicapped, but found that some of the info we would need could not be made public, and some was not tracked. Shelley also contacted the NRPC to find out how many trails in NH are handicap accessible. As of this time NRPC is not keeping track, but will do so in the future. Jay suggested we could possibly contact our Town Clerk to find out how many handicapped license plates have been issued in MV as a means of determining handicapped usage. Jay said that he would contact the Town Clerk to see if that information is available. David suggested that he would give the NH Neurological Spine Institute to see if they had any information that we could use for the grant application. We will review the progress again next month.

Timber Trespass @ Herlihy Swamp Update - Jay reported that it was found that no trespass had occurred. Bob Todd surveyed the property and found that the Town Map was incorrect and no trespass had occurred. Jay suggested that the Selectmen are interested in beginning the process to have to have town owned land surveyed for accuracy. The CC will put on the agenda for another meeting.

NRPC MAPS - Shelley brought the new NRPC map for us to review. It was determined that there were some omissions in conservation land that needed to be corrected. This map also did not have the color designations for conservation property and town owned land that was on our previous 2009 map. It was the consensus of the CC that we would ask NRPC to redo this map and add the additional designations that we are requesting. Shelley is also planning to get an updated tax map with tax #s added. Shelley is expecting an updated tax map with tax numbers added. Shelley asked if we would like to have tax numbers on this map. Jay did not think it would be helpful for this map. Joanne suggested that we should also have the watershed designations on the conservation map. MaryJean agreed that including the watershed areas would be helpful for this “conservation” map as opposed to multiple maps. Joanne thanked Shelley for all her work on this project todate.

Orchard Hill Development - Joanne updated the CC with the news that the Planning Board had approved the Orchard Hill development, however, the developer wants the CC/Town of Mont Vernon to pay for the cost of the conservation easement that would put 8 acres of the Orchard Hill property into a conservation easement. Joanne explained that there we will actually need two conservation easements as the property in question is actually on two separate lots. Joanne and MaryJean attended the selectmen’s meeting on 6/5/17 and Joanne presented the Selectmen with a conservation easement that was used by the Milford CC for a similar project. After reviewing the Milford CC Easement, the selectmen concurred that the language in that easement would be a good fit for the Orchard Hill Easement. Laurie offered to retype the sample Milford easement and customize it for the Orchard Hill project. Joanne will work with Laurie on the applicable language concurrent with this project. We would then send a draft to Mr. Vaughn for his review. After Mr. Vaughn reviews the proposed easement and accepts this easement, we can take the next step and send to Town Council for a cost estimate. Joanne asked the CC to read over the easement to see if there was anything that might need changing. Shelley suggested that the wording should reflect no snowmobiles on this property be added, as this area is very wet and snowmobiles could destroy some of the natural habitat. Jay, concurred, and

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suggested the language read “no motorized vehicles” which would also cover ATV usage.

New Business:

Camping Request, review rules/policy— It has come to the CC attention that there has been a lot of illegal camping and fires along the Purgatory Brook. It appears that a lot of the “traffic” we are experiencing is coming

from the Lyndeborough side. Joanne mentioned that she has not seen any signage on the Lyndeborough side to help educate people and deter them from misuse of this area.

We have posted the rules no camping, no fires. We will review the rules at our next meeting.

Joanne will not be available for July 12th as scheduled but will be available for July 19th.

Jay can also be available for the 19th. Joanne will post the notice of this meeting change.

Jay suggested that we propose to the Selectmen an ongoing Warrant Article for 10K. A “roving” Warrant Article that would only be used for the surveying of town owned property. That way we could get the process of surveying these properties started. The CC felt that this proposal should be discussed further at our next meeting on July 19th.

9:40 Jay made a motion to adjourn, Earle seconded all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary

Next Meeting: July 19th