

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: May 18, 2016

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

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

Annette Immorlica (*Planning Board Representative*)

-

Review April Minutes - Minutes reviewed. Earle made a motion to accept minutes as modified. Garth seconded, Jay abstained, minutes approved.

7:45 Presentation and Motions to Pay Bills: No Bills

7:46 Review any correspondence: No Correspondence

7:50 Guest Speakers – Mila Paul from the UNH Thompson School Forestry Technology Program came before the CC to wrap up the details on the signage that we have collaborated on for our trails at Wah Lum. Mila gave us the final price for the 6 Trail Signs @ 18.00 each and the 8 Rule Signs @ \$36.50. At our previous meeting we had approved a sign expenditure of up to \$400. For the ordering of these signs the CC felt it would be best to establish a direct contact with the sign maker. Larry asked if we would be able to get the graphic masters and the PDF files. Mila did not think that would be a problem and will forward us all the contact info that we will need to order the signs and establish a working relationship with the sign maker. Larry will place the order upon receipt of this information.

-

Andrew Piper - Eagle Scout Project on Havinga Woods Trails - After walking the Havinga Woods trails Andrew approached the CC with some of his recommendations to make the trails more walkable. Some of his suggestions ranged from leveling a portion of the trail to making steps in an area that was steep. He would also like to clear and cut down some extra bushes and open up the trail head a bit which will include cleaning up the Kiosk and parking area. Gravel and logs will be needed to do this and Andrew will provide. Joanne asked how he will fund his project. He explained that he will have to raise money from various fund raisers that he will do. He will be working on this project a couple of days a week over the summer. The work will be from the Havinga Trailhead at Mason Road down to the first stream crossing. Larry signed off on this project for Andrew with the appropriate paperwork that Andrew provided. Jay made a motion to accept project, Garth seconded and all agreed.

Ray Shea – Sanford Surveyors – Wetland impact of driveway crossing a narrow brook on Old Amherst Road, Map 2-Lot 43, Approx 22 acres (It is noted at this point that Mr. Shea has **not** gone before the Planning Board, and was addressing the CC to see if we had any input into this proposal (either positive or negative.) He explained that the point of interest is a narrow well defined brook area that is approximately 500 feet from the road. This crossing will be impacting approximately 500 sq. feet in total of wetland. He would be using a culvert with a natural bottom and it will be keyed into the ground. This

type of bottom will facilitate the movement of amphibians under the culvert. This type of culvert is also DES approved and will be sized by the state requirements. Joanne asked Mr. Shea what type of surface he would be using on the driveway and he said it would most likely be gravel. Mr. Shea will prepare a drainage report to present to Planning Board as well as all pertinent information regarding the construction of the driveway and the culvert. After meeting with the planning board he will come back to the CC for any additional confirmation.

8:45 Old Business:

- Master Plan Update - Joanne informed the CC that the Wildlife Habitat Study for the Master Plan will be temporarily on hold until September.

Carleton Pond Fund Raiser -At the Spring Gala on May 21- the CC will have a game booth on the Village Green. Because we will be using live gold fish, the CC will have signage instructing all the winners of the gold fish not to put them in a pond or stream as they are an invasive fish. They will need to go into an aquarium. All the proceeds from this game will go to The Carleton Pond Project. We will also have Carleton Pond signage/information to help explain what the project is all about.

The Ice out Contest - Howard Brown the winner of the 2016 Ice Out Contest will be presented with the winners' trophy at Spring Gala.

Expiration Date of Carleton Pond NHDES Permit- Annette asked if we had confirmed the date. The expiration date of the permit is February 26, 2018. However, the permit cannot be renewed in 2018, but if we need to, we can apply for an extension at that time

Dow Road Paring Area- Larry spoke with Mike (DPW) regarding obtaining large rocks to delineate the paring area on Dow Road. Mike does not have access to this type of material. Jay suggested that on the Archibald Property on Route 13 there are some large rocks that might be suitable, and possibly Roger Pinchard on Francestown TPK may have some rocks. Larry will take another month to look around for prospective rocks. Jay will talk to Kevin Pomeroy.

Update on Purgatory Road Subdivision – Annette informed us that the MV Planning Board had been contacted by Mr. Vaughn regarding changing from 24 open space lots to a ten (10) house grid subdivision. He would be willing to work with town to put some of the property into a conservation easement. There was some discussion regarding some of the possible options that might be explored. Annette wanted to know if the CC would be willing to meet with Mr. Vaughn. The Planning Board will ultimately have to approve the change.

9:00 New Business:

NE Grassland Project – Joanne and Shelley meet with Cathryn Abbott from the Vermont Center for EcoStudies that received a grant for the New England Grassland Project to increase habitat for grassland birds and pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and bats all of which are rapidly declining in New England. They looked at the View Lot on Rt.13 and the Upper Wah Lum View Lot. Even though MV has a lot of fields they were not able to sight some of the species that were considered declining in this area. Cathryn Abbott did offer some “best practices” for these fields. On the Rte 13 View Lot we should consider planting some native wildflowers, scheduling mowing for after flowering plants have passed, removing some of the large pines to allow for propagating lower growth plants which are more beneficial for birds. On Upper Wah Lum View Lot we can continue to do what we have been doing, and possibly try to preserve some of the native blueberries by not mowing until they pass. NEGP would also be willing to find a lecturer that could come back and present a program for our town.

Wilkins Tree Clearing Near Havinga Woods Property – Steve Wilkins has a large oak tree on his property that abuts the Havinga property. He wanted our permission to cut this tree as he would have to fell onto the Havinga Town Owned Property. He also mentioned that there were two Birch Trees on the Havinga property near the aforementioned large oak that have died at the top. He offered to take the birch down for us at the same time. *Garth made a motion to allow oak tree cut and the cut of the 2 dead birches and fell on our town property. Earle seconded. All in favor.*

19 Horton Road Permit for Dry Hydrant – DES will be contacted to obtain a permit for the Dry Hydrant. Earle explained that there would be no change to pond but dredging pond and putting in a hydrant. The planning board will be notified and the Town will install.

More Parking at Upper Falls- Lyndeborough Road Agent is putting in additional parking at the Upper Falls. The Lyndeborough CC is putting in more signage along Purgatory Brook. In lieu of the fact that we (MVCC) are also updating our signage along Purgatory Brook Joanne will check out their website for more information and, if required, contact the LCC to get some confirmation regarding their signs and placement thereof.

Logging on Joe Carleton Property - Jay brought to our attention that there will be approximately 135 acres of the Joe Carleton Property that is planned for logging.

9:20 Jay made a motion to adjourn, Garth seconded and all agreed

Our next meeting date will be June 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary