

Meeting Minutes

Mont Vernon Conservation Commission

Meeting Date: November 8, 2017

Present: Joanne Draghetti, Jay Wilson, David Hagg, MaryJean MacGillivray

Shelley Brooks, Judy Brophy, Michelle Riesselman, Arthur Rounds

Meeting brought to order: 7:30 PM

Review October Minutes: Michelle made a motion to accept minutes as read, and Judy seconded.

All members in agreement. October Minutes Accepted.

7:38 Joanne announced that the Milford Rotary will be donating \$5,000 to the Carleton Pond Project and thanked Shelley Brooks for all her efforts in getting this donation.

7:40 Winter Intern Request- The MVCC received a request from Liam Rendall regarding an internship with the MVCC over winter break. The MVCC discussed having an intern over the winter and concurred that the CC was not in a position to offer an internship at this time. Joanne will send a reply to Liam Rendall regarding our decision, and thank him for his interest.

7:45 Old Business – To date Joanne has not received a request from the Winter Wanderers Snowmobile Club for permission to use some of the trails on the Wah Lum property this winter. Joanne reviewed the requirements of compliance for usage for the new CC members. Joanne will contact the Winter Wanderers to see if they are interested in snowmobiling on Wah Lum this winter.

8:00 Planning Board Update: In Annette's absence, Joanne announced that the Orchard Hill Subdivision has been approved by the Planning Board. The developer, Bret Vaughn is beginning to do some clearing on the property. Shelley expressed concern regarding the invasive plants that will be dug up and questioned if they will be properly disposed of. Joanne informed the Selectmen the CC would contact the state for clarification regarding invasives. Shelley volunteered to contact Doug Cygar from the state to clarify specifically what the builder's responsibility for invasive disposal is.

8:15 Carleton Pond Update and Fund Raising: The work on the pond is wrapping up for the winter and is meeting all expectations. The natural springs have been recovered and hold promise of good clean water going forward. There have been some construction cost overruns to date and the CC discussed some fund raising options. The Fishing Derby in the spring was mentioned as a good opportunity to reach people.

8:45 Warrant Article for Town Meeting: Jay and Joanne have met with the Selectmen regarding a Warrant Article at Town Meeting to address the costs. The Selectmen would prefer a warrant article as opposed to adding a cost to the CC Budget. Jay explained that in 2018 and beyond, the focus on Carleton Pond will be to get started on the walkway around the pond and the landscaping. Joanne asked for a motion for a *2018 Warrant Article for 10K*. MaryJean made a motion for a *Warrant Article for 10K for Carleton Pond*, Judy seconded..Motion passed.Jay made an additional motion to amend the CC Budget and remove \$7,000. Michelle seconded. Motion passed, all in favor. Joanne will contact Lorie to update her on the CC changes.

9:10 NRPC Map Update: Shelley continues to review topographical maps of town owned property and is making some progress. The work is time consuming as she has to find and then research the deeds on the properties for clarification. She has been unable to find the deed for a 25 acre piece of property on Beech Hill.

She also has a question about property on Salisbury Road. Shelley is working with NRPC for further clarification on the maps.

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9:15 Pinchard Property - The CC discussed the requirements that Mr. Pinchard has requested for the property that he is donating to the Town of MV. It was agreed that Jay's suggestion for a photographic record of the property would be helpful for future land management. Arthur is willing to help with this aspect of the project, but would like to have a guide. MaryJean suggested that possible a winter walk of the property would be an option and would be happy to help him. Joanne has developed a letter to Mr. Pinchard regarding his requirement for ownership of the property, and will contact him for his approval.

9:30 Cheever Lane Trespass - The selectmen have been in touch with the builder, and have issued a

request to him to have the remediation work on the town owned property that was violated be completed by November 15, 2017.

9:35 New Business:

Recent incident of a Lost Hiker on Trail-The *MVCC Trail system* along the Purgatory Brook has been well marked and maintained. However, people are entering the system in Lyndeborough and getting lost. In this incident the hiker got lost and was not found until the next morning. He was just over the line into Mont Vernon. It has been stated that people are finding descriptions of this trail and the Wah Lum Trail on the internet. The trail has been misrepresented as being an easy trail which it is not. These trails are hiking trails not walking trails. The MVCC is going to review their signage at their kiosks as well as on their trail system. The CC will also look on the internet to see if there can be some clarification made to the inaccurate trail descriptions which are exacerbating issues with lost hikers.

9:45 Wetlands Application Time Sensitivity – Because the CC meets once a month we do not always get notification regarding the wetlands application in time to sufficiently review and respond. Because of the time restraint of 14 days, the CC discussed asking the Town Clerk to notify us as soon as a Wetlands Permit is received. This will give us sufficient time to respond. Jay will follow up with town clerk regarding *wetland application*.

9:50 CC Winter Event – For the last few years the CC has organized a winter event that was geared toward awareness for The Carleton Pond Project featuring *ice skating*, and an *Ice Out Contest*. This year the pond will not be available for above, so the CC is considering a hiking, snowshoeing or sledding event and/or guest speaker. This is still a work in progress so the CC would welcome your feedback.

9:55 Jay made a motion to adjourn, Arthur seconded...all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryJean MacGillivray, Secretary

Next Meeting: December 13th (7:00-7:35 PM) Town Hall