

MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of November 10, 2011

Present:

Audrey Fraizer- Chair
Kim Rimalover – Vice Chair
Andy Hughes, Hub Seward, Becky Lorette- Full Members
Chris Costantino, Rodney DellaFelice - Alternate Members
Fred Elkind - Conservation Coordinator

Excused:

Diane Fitzpatrick, Wayne Hardy, Andy Seale

Also Present:

Blake Corbitt – Perspective Eagle Scout

Call to Order:

The public meeting of the Milford Conservation Commission was called to order by Audrey Fraizer at 7:04 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of the October 13 meeting were considered and Chris C. moved and Becky L. seconded a motion that the minutes of the October 13 meeting be accepted as presented. The vote was in the affirmative.

Appointments:

1 Blake Corbit presented a preliminary plan for his Eagle Scout project. Blake intends to produce emergency signs to be placed along the Rail Trail. The purpose of the signs is to allow hikers in need of emergency services to locate themselves and provide this information to emergency responders. Blake proposes to produce signs based upon a license plate format. The signs could be bent and attached to trees so as to provide a two directional sign.

Chris suggested that the signs be attached with galvanized roofing nails and recommended that Blake review a copy of the Trails Manual for details. Fred will supply Blake with a copy of the manual.

Following discussion of separation distances between signs, the Commission recommended that they be placed about 1/8 mile apart and that extra blanks should be provided in case of the need for replacement.

Blake has discussed the plan with Bill McKinney and with Rick Riendeau.

Blake also wants to produce kiosks for the intersections with Armory, Union, and Melendy roads. After discussion of the types of Kiosks, it was recommended that large kiosks be placed at Armory Rd. parking lot and at the powerlines/Brookline line. Mini Kiosks would be preferable at the road crossings.

Non-Public Session

Chris moved and Andy seconded that the meeting move into non-public session. During the session, the unsealing of the September 8 and 13 minutes were discussed. Audrey presented the history of the purchase of the Pratt parcel. Chris moved approval of the September 8 non-public minutes, seconded by Kim. Unanimous.

Audrey presented the September 13 non-public minutes. Kim moved approval and Becky seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Chris moved to unseal the minutes, Becky seconded the motion, unanimous.

Andy H. moved and Rodney seconded the motion to exit the non-public session.

Votes were taken during the session to approve the minutes of September 8 and 13 non-public sessions and to unseal those minutes.

Unfinished Business

1. Conservation Commission Goals – Audrey discussed the work that had been completed to date reviewing the “wet map”. There is some confusion regarding the names of some of the streams. Fred advised that there is a USGS map somewhere in Planning Dept. that has the locations and names of the streams that have 50 and 100 foot. buffers.

Audrey set November 30 at 7pm as the next Goals Worksession.

Interdepartmental Reviews:

None

Reports:

1. Chamber of Commerce Expo (SouheganValley Expo). Audrey indicated that the expo was successful with a number of individuals signing up for trails work, hikes, and additional information. Chris felt that there were fewer people than last year. Audrey’s thoughts are that the new stage placement resulted in fewer visitors making it to the rear display areas. Fred indicated that fewer visitors allowed more quality time with nearly everyone entering the booth received personal attention. Chris felt that the Pumpkin Festival provided a bigger bang for the buck but that all outreach is good.
2. Ghost Train Rail Trail Race - Chris summarized the race as being a fun and successful effort. There were 78 runners, 19 Ultra Race runners. \$718.00 was raised for the Rail Trail. Next year’s race will be larger and even more organized. The only problems were

one injury in Brookline and abutters hassling the Ultra Runners after dark near Leisure Acres. Fred has contacted the management of Leisure Acres so that they can place something in their newsletter about public right to use the trail. Chris will follow up on this before the next race.

3. Audrey discussed the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commission that was attended by Kim, Chris, and Audrey. Kim felt that the turnout was less than in previous years. She attended sessions on the application of the revised NH Method for evaluating wetlands. She also attended a session about the preparation of Bath's Wildlife Action Plan (WAP)

Audrey attended sessions regarding negotiating with land owners. The SPNH representative suggested that it is essential to fully understand the property, bring maps to focus the discussion, listen to the owners and try to understand where they are in life.

Chris attended storm water programs. She indicated there was an emphasis on the impacts of phosphorus (in this area) as a runoff borne nutrient.

4. Audrey discussed the Commission's website. She indicated that the site needs improvement and that there could be the possibility of a second site referenced by the Town's site. Fred cautioned that there are constraints as to what can be done with the site. The Town has decided to standardize the town sites. Audrey asked how that decision was made. Chris indicated that it was the result of a recommendation by the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Audrey established a committee composed of Audrey, Chris, Becky and Kim. Fred suggested that the first meeting should involve Mike McInerny since he can best present the opportunities and limitations. Audrey will contact Mike and set something up.

5. 4th Saturday Hikes – Audrey reported that the Mayflower hike had 15 hikers and all went well. There was an individual sleeping in a sleeping bag with evidence of a nearby campfire. The person was informed that a permit is required for camping and camp fires.

Recreation is now advertising the hikes in their newsletter as a result of Audrey's discussions with Heather.

Audrey suggested that the Commissioners be ready to discuss 2012 hikes at the next meeting. She suggested that the formats could be expanded to include geo-caching, evening hikes, and other formats. Kim suggested a snowshoeing hike of Mayflower. Chris will discuss another orienteering hike with Charlotte – perhaps for next October.

Fred is to bring a list of hikes from the last two years.

6. Land Fund – Fred spoke with Guy Scaife about the fund. Guy agreed that a \$20,000 request was appropriate. Audrey will follow up on this item. Fred will provide language

7. Osgood Pond Association – Fred presented some of the extensive history of the plans and efforts to reclaim the pond. The Conservation Commission has been involved for decades and even contracted for the earlier investigations. The BOS provided the Conservation Commission with the responsibility to be officially involved in the process in 1993. Current thinking is that there should be a citizen’s advisory committee that may be identified as the Osgood Pond Association or something similar. Andy asked if the Commission would be part of the Association. Fred suggested that the association should be non-municipal but that members of the Conservation Commission could be involved. The Commission would be in a supportive role.

Audrey got the sense of the Commission as to whether they would support this effort and approach. The response was in the affirmative.

8. CLMC – Chris advised the Commission that the CLMC wants additional guidance. They have done well in developing trails such as at Mayflower/Patch Hill. However, without specific tasks supported by the Commission there could be a loss of focus and interest. Audrey stated that there needs to be a work session by the Conservation Commission to provide guidance.
9. Revised Master Plan Wording – Fred informed the members that he had been requested by the ZBA-related staff (specifically Shirley Wilson) that there is a problem with wording of 6.02.1D which states that the ZBA can only provide a Special Exception for wetlands and buffer impacts after the Commission supplies a report within 40 days following the receipt at a meeting by the Conservation Commission of a detailed plan. The ZBA would be unable to accept plans after the 40 days. This does not work well when there is a revised plan or site walk required. Fred had drafted language to resolve the issue. The Planning Board had rejected the language, primarily because it resulted in a complex sentence rather than two simpler sentences.

The Commission discussed the revised language. Chris felt that the system had worked, despite its errors, in the past and was unsure why the Planning Board had been bothered with this issue. Audrey has other concerns about the ordinance and questioned whether they could be discussed this year. Fred indicated that the reason for the discussion at this meeting is the time frame requires the Planning Board to have revisions by November 17th. Rodney believed that the proposed language was effective. Fred advised that he believed the proposed language was administrative and not a change in policy and he did not believe the Commission had to be the source of the corrected language.

The Commission decided to not pursue a change until next year.

Announcements:

None

Communications:

None

There being no other business to come before the Conservation Commission, Audrey adjourned the meeting at 9:55 pm.

Audrey Fraizer

Hub Seward

Kim Rimalover

Chris Costantino

Andy Hughes

Diane Fitzpatrick

Becky Lorette

Wayne Hardy

Andy Seale

Rod DellaFelice