

**Milford Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes March 13, 2014
7:00pm Board of Selectmen Meeting Room**

Present: Members: Hub Seward, acting Chair; Andy Hughes, Becky Lorette, Kim Rimalover, Andy Seale, Janet Urquhart. Audrey Fraizer, excused. **Alternate Member:** Chris Costantino. **Guests:** Greg Boggis as prospective member; Brad Westgate, attorney for St. Joseph’s Medical Center; and Kyle Bushard, engineer representing Meridian Land Services for St. Joseph’s Medical Center

Approval of February meeting minutes: Unanimous approval of the February meeting minutes by a motion from AndyH, seconded by AndyS.

Appointment: St. Joseph’s Medical Center application for approval for a land exchange with the Town of Milford. Kyle Bushard and Brad Westgate presented information and plans demonstrating the location and extent of the land swap between St. Joseph’s and the Town of Milford. The purpose of the exchange is to consolidate St. Joseph’s property and to put the access road into St. Joseph’s management. The Commission approved the land exchange with the condition that there is an access easement in place for access to Kaley Park. This will remove the wetland and associated buffer from the access road. There was unanimous approval for a motion to approve this land swap presented by AndyS, seconded by KimR.

Business Session:

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. 4 th Saturday hike	<p>February Hike at SRT East – KimR reported that there were 8 people to attend. The deep snow made for difficult walking, so the hikers without snowshoes turned back. The rest of the group went to the large bend in the river behind Trombly Gardens, admired the view, and then walked back. It was a beautiful day.</p> <p>March Hike at Monson – ChrisC contacted Russ Dickerman, property manager, who will plan to accompany the group. ChrisC also contacted Society for Protection of NH Forests, who owns the property.</p>	AudreyF will lead the Monson hike
2. Warrant Articles	<p>Land Fund - \$20,000. AndyH suggested that members send in any thoughts concerning this year’s WA process so that we have a more effective campaign next year. The WA request was defeated by 809Y /872N</p> <p>Mile Slip Easement – AudreyF drafting easement language and working with NHACC on the process to put the easement in place. Need to meet with Drescher about his comments at the deliberative session. The members want this project to move forward quickly and be completed in 9 months</p>	<p>Members send in comments for improving the WA process as regards the Commission</p> <p>AudreyF to work on easement language, find an easement holder, talk to Bill Drescher about his interpretation of the process to put an easement on town land.</p>

3. Open Space Easement with CreativeInvestors	AudreyF spoke with Kent Chappell about the wording in the proposed easement. She sent an updated version to Kent via email. There had been no response from KC. The members approve the suggested wording change proposed by AudreyF. Any restrictions of trail use can be posted in the trail kiosk, which is much more visible than an easement riding with a deed description.	Wait for decision from Kent Chappell.
4. Website Update	Mike McInerney, Media Communications Director, is working on a new look for the website per the Commission's request. The members reviewed the new design and asked that there be a slide show in the large box at the top of the page	Chris will take a photo of the working design and post it and the flowchart in dropbox
5. Training Events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saving Special Places – April 5 2. Water Words that Work – March 12 – Audrey and Chris. Useful. 3. Mr Mapper – NWRA on Feb 26 at 6:30 – Kim and Chris. This wasn't too applicable for us. 	

Work Session:

6. Tucker Brook TF Timber harvest	<p>Dan Reed is putting the proposal out to bid. The members would like to see a final version of the prospectus that was sent to the loggers, including dates, for their records. There were some questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will the logger submit 2 bids – one to include the cordwood and one to not include the cordwood? Or will there be an estimated value of the cordwood? 2. Will the cordwood be left uncut at the landing? 3. What is the purpose for the condition that one load be taken out on the ROW to the east of the abutter's property? 	Chris will send questions to Dan Reed
7. Hitchiner Town Forest Management Plan	<p>AndyH presented the Hitchiner Fields Management Plan prepared by Yvonne Beran. The members were most appreciative of her efforts.</p> <p>If DPW can absorb the mowing schedule into their work plans, ChrisC will set up a meeting with Liz Craighead (DPW) and AndyH so that DPW is clear about where and when to mow.</p>	<p>-ChrisC found that praying mantis do eat ticks. http://www.prayingmantisshop.com/info-mantis.html -ChrisC will check with DPW's ability to handle the field mowing schedule -AndyH will create a spreadsheet to track the mowing schedule</p>
8. Mile Slip Town Forest Management Plan	Some of the members had not had time to read the Management Plan; so it is tabled for discussion until the April meeting.	ChrisC will post the document with AndyH's and her comments to Dropbox

9. Future work session – March 27 th ?	None scheduled	
10. Stormwater Ordinance	AndyS enjoyed reading it. The members who read it were glad to see that waivers were included	ChrisC will send a copy to Greg Boggis
11. Rail trail crossing at Melendy Rd	BeckyL suggested that we relook at the possibility of building a ramp up to grade at Melendy Road. A tunnel will require a huge expense and long-term ongoing maintenance. A ramp may be easier to maintain. Becky will try to get better photos of a large ramp that she saw on a rail trail in Connecticut. Could a lot of the work be done as a senior engineering project by a college student at one of the state universities?	ChrisC will contact Peter Basiliere about making a 3-D model of the ramp. And will contact the professors responsible for managing senior engineering projects

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 on a motion by BeckyL, seconded by JanetU. There were no dissenting votes.