

Milford Conservation Commission
January 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order in the BOS Meeting Room at the Milford Town Hall at 7:00

Present:

Full members: Audrey Fraizer, Chair; Kim Rimalover, Vice Chair; Andy Hughes, Becky Lorette, Andy Seale, Hub Seward. Alternate members: Rodney Dellafelice, Chris Costantino

Minutes from the December 8, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented.

Appointments:

Joshua Forand retracted his request to be an intern with the commission. He found another opportunity.

Discussion Items

1. Non-public Session. On the motion by Andy Seale, seconded by Andy Hughes, unanimous vote of the commission, the commission moved into non-public session subject to section 91-A:3.II.b. On a motion by Andy Hughes, seconded by Rod, unanimous vote of the commission, the minutes of the non-public will remain sealed. On a motion by Kim, seconded by Becky, unanimous vote of the commission, the commission came out of non-public session
2. Conservation Commission Coordinator. Fred Elkind was offered and accepted a position as Environmental Coordinator, creating a vacancy for the conservation commission coordinator position. Chris Costantino, an alternate member of the commission, applied for the position. On a motion by Becky to approve the hiring of Chris, seconded by Andy H, unanimous approval of the commission, Chris was hired. This is a 24 hour paid position; Chris and Fred will share the current conservation commission office.
 - a. Discussion of tasks the coordinator can do to support the commission:
 - i. forwarding emails with a brief summary of the email thread, any necessary background information, any actions needed by commission and/or action taken by the coordinator
 - ii. website maintenance including the addition of a link to a list of the properties managed by the commission with a brief description of the property
 - iii. providing information about the RSAs that govern the work of the commission
 - iv. provide history of a selected property to the commission at each meeting
3. Osgood Pond.
 - a. Chris will look into the conservation values of maintaining the pond or allowing the natural progression of the pond to an emergent marsh
 - b. The commission will consider the formation of an Osgood Advisory Committee as a subcommittee of the commission much like the trails committee. This advisory committee should consist of at least one member of the commission and at least one landowner abutting Osgood Pond.
 - c. Samantha Brown, MHS intern, is working on a summary of the Osgood Pond History up to and including the proposed dredging project.
4. Winter Festival. The Recreation Department doesn't need any additional volunteers
5. Conservation Commission Accounts at local stores. Chris will check with County Stores, Milford Paint and the Engine House to see how they handle the commission account and verify the authorized persons for the account.
6. MCC Policy and Procedure Manual.
 - a. This needs a general review and update, if necessary
 - i. Policy for employing the concomm coordinator
 - ii. Reimbursement of town volunteers for supplies purchased
7. **MCC Budget Hearing. Scheduled for January 18 at 6:30 in the BOS meeting room**

8. **4th Saturday Hike – January 28 @ 9:00 - Kim and Andy H will lead this hike along the Souhegan River Trail East. Chris will verify parking at the Masonic Hall and post announcement**
9. Commission Members. There are 2 openings of the conservation commission. Post through the volunteer list managed by Brian Hawkins of the trails committee and other community places (town web site, public TV, Milford Cabinet)
10. Work session scheduled for Jan 26 at 7:00 in the Community Development Meeting Room to work on the website.
11. Warrant Articles. Audrey and Chris attended the preliminary BOS hearing of the warrant article. The majority gave preliminary approval of the request to have the Souhegan Valley Land Trust hold an easement on the recently acquired Pratt Property M45 L02 and to appropriate \$20,000 to the MCC Land Fund.
12. Voting Day. The MCC should be present with a display board on during voting hours.
13. Trail History. Members looked at Hitchiner Town Forest history. Hitchiner should have an easement on it. The process for this should be started soon in preparation for the March 2013 Warrant. Next month, the property history will be about Brox.
14. Souhegan River bank stabilization. Steve Trombly cut destroyed trees from the October snow storm. He left stumps in place in the bank. However, the bank has been destabilized in places, which he would like to reinforce with rip rap. Fred Elkind and Chris walked the area with Steve. He is aware that he will need a permit and was hoping for assistance from the commission. Chris will contact DES for information about bank stabilization BMP and pass along to Steve.
15. Mayflower Hill encroachments. Hub saw some landowner encroachments along the Shady Lane boundary line. He brought in pictures. **Hub will draft a letter to be sent to the property owners reminding them of town forest boundary and the restrictions about dumping yard waste or crossing the property lines with yard accoutrements.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:45. Next meeting February 9, 2012