

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes June 11, 2020 7:00pm Zoom Meeting Room

In light of the COVID 19 (corona virus) social distancing advised by the Governor and CDC, the Town of Milford, following a declaration of emergency by the Conservation Commission Chair, is providing meeting participation via telephone conference for your safety. If you would like to participate in the telephone conference, please call: **+1 646-558 8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 843 4452 5030 and Password 206488.** Or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84344525030> The meeting will be live streaming on Granite Town Media, Government Channel 21: <http://gtm.milford.nh.gov/CablecastPublicSite/watch/2?channel=2> . To participate in the meeting, "raise your hand for recognition" by pressing *9 on your device.

Present

Members – all participated via Zoom

Andy Hughes, Chair

John Yule, VChair

Janet Urquhart,

Hub Seward,

Audrey Fraizer

Excused: Kim Rimalover, David Bosquet (Alt)

Anita Stevens ,

Rodney Dellafelice(Alt)

Chris Costantino(Alt)

Town Representatives

Guests

Nick Darchik – trail steward for Rotch TF

Buddy Dougherty – advocate for the Rail Trail and a member of the Brookline CC; although not speaking on its behalf.

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. Meeting Minutes approval	The May 14 Meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a motion from Audrey seconded by John	
2. 4 th Saturday hike	June 27, 2020 hike on schedule July 25, 2020 hike – no location determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris to confirm this hike with John Shannon, Town Administrator.• Audrey will pick a location and notify Anita and Chris
3. Brookstone Conservation Easement	Brookstone management committed to a Conservation Easement, held by the Town of Milford, to permanently protect the 6 +/- acre open space portion of their property (Map. Audrey presented a motion to spend up to \$2500 for the land fund to survey the area included in the Conservation Easement. Reserved rights regarding trails and access to abutting properties are to be coordinated with the landowner and included in the deed. This motion was seconded by Chris and was unanimously approved by the members.	Chris to notify Lincoln Daley, Community Development Director

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4. Heron Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A caller wants to reduce the amount of lily pads which cover nearly 90% of the heron pond, near the elementary school. After discussion of input from NH Fish and Game staff, it was decided that the lily pads will remain. • Broken beaver flow device – The MCC decided that contracting with Skip Lisle, of Beaver Deceivers International to repair the device was the best use of resources 	<p>Chris will inform the caller of the MCC's decision.</p> <p>Chris will contact Skip Lisle.</p>
5. Hitchiner TF	<p>Abutting property at the top of the hill had a large brush fire. Andy, with permission from the landowner cleared the fire pit and removed a large pile of ash and broken glass. Regeneration in the burn area is already visible.</p> <p>Andy painted over the graffiti on the tables in the Pavilion.</p> <p>NEFF (New England Forestry Foundation), the holder of the CE on Hitchiner and Mile Slip TFs did their first annual monitoring visit to Hitchiner and Mile Slip</p> <p>The members discussed placing cameras at the pavilion. There doesn't seem to be a real need to capture the activity that is happening. There is a concern of privacy for persons who are using the pavilion for a family picnic or a lunch refuge.</p>	
6. Rotch TF	<p>Nick Darchik, one of the trail stewards for the Rotch TF, would like to breach the lower dam in order to extend the existing outfall from the upper beaver dam flow device. The lower dam is retaining sufficient water that the trail from Melendy Road is under water. There is some indication that the water level in the lower ponded area may be higher elevation than that in the main pond.</p>	<p>Chris will arrange a date to breach the dam with Nick. She will post the date in Nature Groupie.</p>
7. Girl Scout Bronze Star project	<p>A girl scout would like to build and install a bench at Tucker Brook. The members like the idea. Rodney has photos of a nice bench he saw on another trail. We can think of several places for a bench – perhaps the scout would like to make more than one?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris will follow up with the scout. • Rodney will send the photos he has of the bench.
8. Osgood Pond Dredging	<p>Peter Spiers, wildlife biologist, is surveying the area of Osgood Pond to be dredged, per the guidance from NH DES. Meetings to discuss locations for the dredged materials have been discussed between town and NH DES and NH F&G staff; which Andy and Chris have attended. The town is awaiting final written guidance from NH F&G.</p>	
9. Ghost Train Rail Trail Races	<p>Cancelled due to COVID-19.</p>	
10. NH Alteration of Terrain (NH AoT) permit language has been approved	<p>No action taken. The Town will begin the process of re-applying for the AoT permit to excavate materials as part of the management plan for the Brox Community Land property. This should put the conservation easement for the open space back on the front burner.</p>	
11. Reports	<p>BOSCE (Brox Open Space Conservation Easement). Audrey talked with Betsy McNaughten, who is the NHF&G wildlife biologist working on the conservation easement. NHFG appears to intend to take a 'wait and see' position. Until there is a revised/new AoT permit for gravel extraction, there is no need for a conservation easement; nor for NHFG to hold the conservation easement.</p> <p>Forest Management Plans updating project – Tucker Brook. No action taken</p>	

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	Armory Rd /Rail Trail crossing – on hold until completion of the Melendy Crossing is completed	
	<p>Melendy Rd tunnel grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails Bureau is continuing their process to release the funding. Not expected before June 24. • Rick Riendeau (DPW) is working with the sole contractor who submitted a bid to find some cost savings • We received a higher than anticipated estimate to install the culvert; there is a difference of approximately \$40,000 between the funds that the MCC has to spend and the cost for the project. Savings can be found in a single-day installation rather than the three days budgeted. Another saving could be found in reducing the culvert size to an 8x8' box culvert. Buddy Dougherty, an experienced trail builder and a member of the Brookline Conservation Commission, suggested that we could not construct the drain that the plan calls for under the box culvert. This would save considerable money and could cover the cost difference between an 8x8 and a 9x9 box culvert. The members would like to check with Chad Brannon, of Fieldstone Land Consultants, who engineered the plan to install the box culvert. The members need a professional engineer's opinion concerning the need for this drain. Buddy offered to meet with the MCC members at the Melendy crossing. 	
	<p>Open subdivisions – place holders to check for changes</p> <p>Falcon Ridge – Monumentation of lots. Some of the lots have been monumented</p> <p>Spaulding – Monumentation and easement of the open space</p>	
12. Interdepartmental Review	<p>M54L2-1 and 2-2 Ciardelli lot line adjustment - no comment</p> <p>M14 L8 Marmon Utility (Hendrix) infringement into the open space to construct a concrete pad for outdoor storage. No comment</p>	Chris will send IDR comments to the Planning Staff.

Next Regular Meeting – July 9, 2020 @ 7PM, Selectmen's Meeting Room.

2020 Meeting Dates: Feb14. Mar 14. Apr 11. May 9. June 11, Jul 9. Aug 13. Sept 12. Oct 8. Nov 12. Dec 10