

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes September 10, 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: 765908606.** Or **<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/765908606>** 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.

Members

Andy Hughes, Chair
John Yule, Vice Chair
Audrey Fraizer
Janet Urquhart

Excused: Kim Rimalover, David Bosquet,

Anita Stevens
Rodney Dellafelice(Alt)
Chris Costantino(Alt)

Town Representatives

Laura Dudziak, BOS representative
Lincoln Daley, Comm Dev Director

Guests

Linda Barrow, Nate Kiner, Deborah & Natalie
Faucher

Appointment – 7:00 The town Planning Board is moving into their yearly review of the zoning ordinances and any necessary updates or revisions. Lincoln Daley, Community Development Director, opened the discussion with a brief description of the some of the issues that have occurred recently with wetland and buffer impacts. Very minor impacts, particularly with driveway access, need to be reviewed by the three land boards. Ultimately, the projects are approved. Could the wetland overlay district be edited to expedite the review process without losing the intent to ensure impacts are done wisely? John, Audrey and Chris volunteered to work on a solution and will report back at the October meeting.

Appointment - 7:30 Linda Barrow is an abutter to Lot 022-073-00 who requested an appointment to discuss options to protect this lot. It is a very wet lot which has a history of encroachments and mitigation. It is part of a stream corridor draining from Patch Hill to the Souhegan River. The land appears to be on the market again. LBarrow has been in contact with a representative of the landowner. The information is incomplete and would indicate that LBarrow needs around \$50K to assist her in her efforts to purchase the lot (any financial assistance would be conditional on the placement of a Conservation Easement on this property). Several of the members do not support providing this amount of financing to LBarrow. Nate Kiner, another abutter, also attended the meeting. LBarrow will contact the landowner with the hope of obtaining a cost for the land. She will report back to the MCC in the event she might need a small amount to close the deal. The members also agreed to discuss a notional value of the maximum financial assistance they would be prepared to provide and communicate this to LBarrow so she can factor this into her negotiations with the current landowner

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. Meeting Minutes approval	The members unanimously approved the August 13 meeting minutes on a motion by Audrey, seconded by Anita	
2. Wetland Overlay District review	See the first appointment.	John, Audrey and Chris will meet and report to the MCC at the October meeting.
3. 4 th Saturday hike	a. Report from Aug 22nd – Andy was prepared to lead the hike at Monson. No one attended. b. September 26 – Rail Trail with a public event at the Melendy Crossing to promote the culvert	We will host the October hike at Monson Chris will lead the September hike

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	installation which will happen before winter	
4. 2021 Budget	The members reviewed the budget and decided to keep the current budget for the 2021 year. The finance department doesn't care how we allocate the budget; that is an internal decision. We will be overspending the contracted services line this year; but still remaining within the total operating budget.	Andy and Chris to go over the details at a later date.
5. Dog waste stations at trailheads	Natalie Faucher presented her Girl Scout Bronze Star project. Natalie was inspired to create dog waste stations to address nuisance dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs. Natalie offered to install her stations, which consist of 2-liter soda bottles which will hold and dispense single-use plastic grocery bags, at the trail heads. The MCC would need to manage these stations. The members feel that most of the trails aren't impacted by nuisance dog owners; however, Natalie will install a station at the DPW trailhead for the Rail Trail and at the kiosk for the Souhegan River Trail West as a pilot program.	The MCC members will need to monitor the grocery bag supply and remove any poop bags left at the site.
6. Heron Pond	<p>Audrey was on site most of the two days that Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers International was repairing the failed beaver flow device. He rebuilt the filter box and inserted the 10" pipe into a 12" pipe to armor it against beaver chewing. The pipe height was set so that the bottom of the pipe is at the top of the dam as of September 2020. This was at the direct guidance of Melissa Doperalski and Josh Megyesy, NH Fish and Game biologists.</p> <p>Andy, Chris and Andy Seale (former MCC member) documented the shoreline with a photo series. The team intends to return when the water levels have risen so that the water level can be measured relative to a stream gauge which will be installed at the same time.</p> <p>Skip adjusted his cost estimate to reflect additional materials and time that he needed to affect the repair. The new amount is \$2500, which the members unanimously approved on a motion by Audrey, seconded by Chris.</p> <p>AndyH is developing a height adjustment system so that the pipe height can be adjusted since level setting during low-water conditions can only be estimated. It may also be possible to change the setting under extreme weather events..</p>	<p>AndyH/Chris/AndyS to return to the pond to measure water depths and install the stream gauge.</p> <p>Audrey to remind Skip to submit an invoice for the work.</p> <p>Audrey will forward the photos taken by Larry Jasper, who documented the repair work.</p> <p>Andy to complete the pipe height adjustment system for installation before the beavers have built the dam around the pipe again.</p>
7. Rotch TF	Clear/manage the lower dam on the property. Nick Darchik will host the clearing of the dam on September 19.	
8. Warrant articles for 2021	Andy set a work session for September 17 to discuss warrant articles for the 2021 ballot.	Chris to arrange to meet at the Banquet Hall in the Town Hall at 6:30PM
9. Reports	BOSCE (Brox Open Space Conservation Easement) . No movement. Still rewriting the Alteration of Terrain language which guides the permitting process for the gravel pit reclamation.	
	Forest Management Plans updating project – Tucker Brook.	

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	Armory Rd /Rail Trail crossing – on hold until completion of the Melendy Crossing is completed	
	Melendy Rd tunnel project. Hike to promote the upcoming culvert installation on September 26 – our normal 4 th Saturday hike. The scenic road impact has been acknowledged by the Planning Board. We are still awaiting a delivery date for the culvert.	Chris to continue to press for a delivery date from CSI (the culvert box mfr)
	Open subdivisions – place holders to check for changes Falcon Ridge – Monumentation of lots. Some of the lots have been monumented Spaulding – Monumentation and easement of the open space	
	Brookstone Conservation Easement. The survey has been completed. Lincoln is working on the language for the Conservation Easement.	
10. Interdepartmental Review	<p>Map 30-19 Wheeler Street Condos - comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like a site visit • John remembers a spring emerging from the steep bank where a retaining wall will be built • What is the maintenance plan for the proposed underground stormwater chambers? • Landscape plan calls for Euonymus alatus which is a variety of burning bush, a prohibited plant in NH. Another plant species will need to be substituted. • The designated area for snow storage doesn't seem adequate <p>Map 51-23 3 lot subdivision - comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like a site visit • Recommend that the Planning Board request that a Natural Resource Inventory be taken of the parcel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This parcel is located in Highest Ranked Habitat for the Region ○ Portions of the parcel are located in Highest Ranked Habitat for the State ○ Abutters have noted the presence of Species of Concern • Wetlands should not be included in lots – history shows they are very likely to result in infringements • Applicant to consider placing a conservation easement on the back half of the proposed lots • The applicant shouldn't be allowed a lot that can't provide its own access, even to avoid a wetland. Therefore, the MCC recommends that the PB only approve 2 lots • 	Chris to coordinate site visits with Planning Board if that is their intention also.
11. Invasive Species Inventory	Anita continues to work on the Invasives Species Inventory. She has noted several locations and is ready to submit the reports to the state agency	Anita to submit the Invasives Reports and send a copy to the MCC office for the files.

Next Regular Meeting – Oct 8, 2020 @ 7PM.

The venue will be virtual i.e. a Zoom Meeting. If the town's COVID-related requirement for remote mtgs is lifted beforehand, the venue will be the Selectmen's Meeting Room).

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

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