

**Milford Conservation Commission April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes 7:00pm Milford BOS Meeting Room**

**PRESENT:**

Members

Town Representatives

Guests

John Yule - Chair

Marie Nickerson

Brian Hawkins

Rodney Dellafelice

Andy Seale

Nancy Hawkins

Kim Rimalover

Richard Elliott (Alt)

Steve Erdody

Anita Stevens

Chris Costantino (Alt)

Olivia DiGiosio

Excused: Andy Hughes

**Appointment:**

Mile Slip TF dedication. Steve Erdody, a longtime Trails Committee member, suggested that Eagle Scout Gene Lemaire build a trail at Mile Slip TF which offers a connection to the Short Trail from the North Trail, and allows hikers to avoid walking on the snowmobile woods road. The trail parallels a beaver impoundment of Mitchell Brook, along which Gene installed a platform and bench, which he and his team of scouts constructed. The trail is called Hawkin's Point, in honor of Brian Hawkins, the first chair of the Trails Committee. Brian and Jon Thunberg created the Trails Manual which standardizes our trail maintenance in Milford. Brian retired from the Trails Committee for health reasons. The MCC is very grateful for the time and energy that Brian dedicated to the standardization and consistent management of the Milford trails.

Olivia DiGiosio. Olivia proposes to construct a birding trail along the Souhegan River Trail West for her Eagle Scout project. Andy Seale will assist her work. Chris will check with Rich Dimidio and Andy Hughes for their assistance.

Item	Discussion	Who Will Do What
1. Non-public session. RSA 91-A:3.II(d) for discussion of possible land acquisition	The members unanimously approved a motion by Chris, seconded by Kim, to go into a nonpublic session to discuss a land acquisition proposal. The members unanimously supported a motion by Chris, seconded by Kim, to close the nonpublic session. The members decided, on a motion by Chris seconded by Kim, that the discussion will remain sealed	
2. Meeting Minutes approval	The March 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by AndyS seconded by Kim.	
3. 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday hike	March 25 – cancelled due to trail conditions and leadership availability April 22, 2023 at the Souhegan River Trail West. This may be a good introduction and planning opportunity for Olivia DiGiosio to talk over the scope of her project.	Chris will ask Rich DiMidio if he is available to lead the hike

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4. Donations	The members unanimously, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Kim, voted to accept Jonathan Faucher 's donation of \$69.58 remaining from his bat box project. The funds were deposited into the Granite Town Rail Trail Revolving Fund	
5. Beaver Policy edits	The BOS conditionally approved the Beaver Management Policy. They would like to see a change in wording so that the town may/should pay for improvements onto private land rather than "shall" pay for improvements on private land (Objective A, Item 7). The MCC agrees to replace 'shall' with 'may' in Item A.7.	Chris will make the edits and resubmit to Tina Philbrick for the next BOS meeting
6. Ruffed Grouse Grant	Andy Seale met representatives from The Ruffed Grouse Society at an event. He discovered that they are interested in re-establishing ruffed grouse habitat, which habitat is very similar to that which we are hoping to re-establish at Mile Slip TF. Andy is working with Society members to see what kind of assistance they can provide to us, and what we can do to ensure that we provide habitat that would encourage a successful population of ruffed grouse.	AndyS will continue to work with members of the Ruffed Grouse Society.
7. Black Heritage Trail	The Heritage Commission is working with the Black Heritage Trail organization to add Milford to the Trail. They are planning to install a plaque at the Bicentennial Park	
8. Wetland Training sessions	Chris has registered for this event, which has priority registration for those who have attended all the previous wetland training. Chris can't attend, so there is a space for someone else to attend. June 2 from 1-4pm at the Forest Society in Concord	
9. Ghost Train MOU with Brookline CC	Brookline CC will put this back on their agenda.	
10. Envision Milford project	Prep work for the upcoming Master Plan rewrite. NRPC led an outreach event with SoRLAC and the MCC Trails Committee.	
11. Volunteer projects	Review and update the project list, which was reformatted by Kim. Additions from the new Rotch Management Plan were added.  Heron Pond benches were added to the list	Andy Seale will contact Hunter Leeman, Eagle Scout candidate who would like to provide viewpoints of the habitat.
12. Reports	Milford Community Land Ecological Inventory and Impact Assessment. Moosewood Ecological staff Jeff Littleton and Stephen visited Map 38 L58 ,the Milford Community Land (MCL) parcel on April 12, 2023. This was their formal introduction to the property for the purposes of creating an Ecological Inventory and Impact Assessment for the parcel. They met with Neal (DPW) and Chris Costantino. Neither John Yule, Leo Lessard (DPW Director), Terrey Dolan (OCD Director) nor Lincoln Daley (TA) were able to attend due to a prior scheduling conflict. We looked at the school culvert	Chris will continue to support Moosewood Ecological's efforts in the next year or so as they gather information to understand the habitat.

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	and discussed elevations and the hydrology of the parcel. We looked at the Heron pond beaver impoundment dam on the northeast extent of the impoundment, which is on the adjacent parcel (M38L14). DPW continues to lower the water level in order to install an additional beaver flow device so that future dam breaching should be eliminated. The biologists were delighted to observe an immature bald eagle, an osprey, a peregrine falcon dive on something in the water and then chase a duck easterly on the powerline corridor, numerous herons eating along the muddy edges, many species of smaller birds and ducks, and evidence that beavers are active. They saw several other raptor species while wandering the gravel area. We observed turtles moving across the landscape.	
	Town Forests: Mile Slip TF – no discussion	
	Wetland Overlay District update – The MCC members decided at the work session to establish a working group from the PB and the ZBA to work on language to expand the wetland buffers from 25' to more, and what would that limit be.	Chris to send email to Terrey Dolan, OCD Director to organize a meeting with the Planning Board.
	Armory Rd /Rail Trail crossing.	Chris has started to work on the 2023 RTP grant application
	Open subdivisions – place holders to check for changes Falcon Ridge – Monumentation of lots. Spaulding – Monumentation and easement of the open space No changes in status for either since last mtg	
13. Work session	April 27, 2023 To be determined	
14. Interdepartmental Review.	<p>A. Map 43-20-2 Gas station on South Street – There was a site visit on March 30. Members of the PB and the ZBA also attended. Based on the site visit, Chris drafted a memo for the ZBA which was distributed to the members for their review. No further edits were made.</p> <p>B. Map 21-23 Boys and Girls Club – At the March 21 Planning Board presentation of this project, Rodney and Chris who attended, learned that the change in the CE language has not been made as yet. This is to identify the Grantor obligation to monitor who sits for how long on a bench rather than the Grantee (Town of Milford or the MCC).</p>	<p>A. Chris will send the accepted ZBA memo to Terrey Dolan, OCD Director.</p> <p>B. Chris will continue to monitor the progress on the language change in the SVBG Club conservation easement.</p>

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15. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 9:30. No motion to do so was noted.	
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**Next Regular Meeting – May 11, 2023 @ 7PM. NOTE: This will be an in-person meeting in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Virtual (remote) access may be available via Zoom. Access details will be included on that meeting's posted Agenda**

**2022 Meeting Dates: Jan 13. Feb 9. Mar 9. Apr 13. May 11. June 8, Jul 13. Aug 10. Sept 14. Oct 12. Nov 19. Dec 14**