

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

PRESENT:

| <u>Members</u> | <u>Town Representatives</u> | <u>Guests</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| John Yule – Chair | Paul Dargie, BOS representative | Griffin Comtois |
| Anita Stevens | | |
| Marie Nickerson | | |
| Richard Elliott (Alt) | | |
| Chris Costantino (Alt) Zoom | | |
| Excused: Andy Hughes, VChair; Rodney Dellafelice; | | |
| Kim Rimalover; Andy Seale | | |

Appointment:

7:00 Griff Comtois; Pollinator Garden Project. Griff would like to make Milford a more pollinator friendly town with the design and installation of a pollinator garden. He proposed improving the existing garden at Keyes Field Pavilion which would include some bee hotels. The Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club is also installing a pollinator garden, so he is working with them to coordinate efforts. The MCC members do not recommend that bee hotels be installed at the Keyes Park pavilion, but supplementing the existing garden with pollinator friendly plants is a great idea. The MCC recommended more locations for wildflower meadows rather than gardens; Melendy Parking for the Rail Trail, the field just north of Jon's Bridge on the Souhegan River Trail, and Hitchiner TF fields. Possible resources offered by the members are NH Audubon, UNH Cooperative Extension Service, Sean Trombly and the Master Gardener Program (UNH Cooperative Extension). It is a multi-year process to establish a wildflower garden including steps to prepare the site, scatter the seed, and manage weeds until the wildflowers are established. Griff is organizing an Arts Event on August 19 (National Honey Bee Day) to raise funds to support the project.

| Item | Discussion | Who Will Do What |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Meeting Minutes approval | A motion by Marie, seconded by Anita, to approve the June meeting minutes was unanimously approved by a roll call vote of the members | |
| 2. 4 th Saturday hike | July 22, 2023. Rail Trail hike. | Chris will lead the hike at the rail trail. TBD whether the DPW or Melendy parking area for a start/finish point |

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| 3. Boys and Girls Club | <p>Discussion about installing wattle fencing along the trail in locations where the children may be attracted to the river. ChrisC has already suggested that ChrisSVBGC contact Celeste Barr. Questions from the discussion among the members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the wattles? The wattles will need to be replaced. Are they treated with some preservative which should be river friendly • What is the purpose of the fencing? • A wattle fence isn't a safe fence. Kids may think that it will support them while playing on or near the fence • Disturbance of the soil. Could the wattle fencing be supported by the existing trees rather than disturbing the rather unstable banking that exists now • Check the Shoreland Protection regulations. Celeste Barr, Souhegan River Local Advisory Committee member and education volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club, will have good information regarding this impact within 50' of the river's bank. | Chris will relay discussion to SVBGC and see where it goes. |
| 4. Accept Donations and Awards | \$440.00 revenue from Ghost Train 2023 registrations during May and June from Ultra Signup. To be deposited into Granite Town Revolving Fund. Chris made a motion, seconded by Marie to accept the funds, which was unanimously approved on a roll call vote. | |
| 5. Reports | Milford Community Land Ecological Inventory and Impact Assessment – stream channel gauges installed. Inventory work proceeds | |
| | <p>Town Forests:</p> <p>Mile Slip TF discussion of waiting until September. Waiver of the timber tax if there is any revenue. Bittersweet to be harvested but conflict with nesting birds</p> | Chris to talk to Eric to use a less intensive harvesting method in the parking area fielding |
| | Wetland Overlay District update – tabled until September | |
| | Armory Rd /Rail Trail crossing | |
| | <p>Open subdivisions – place holders to check for changes</p> <p>Falcon Ridge – Monumentation of lots.</p> | |

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| | Spaulding – Monumentation and easement of the open space No changes in status for either since last mtg | |
| 6. Work session | No work session for July | Send Paul Dargie our list of things to do |
| 7. Interdepartmental Review. | No new projects to review | |
| 8. Adjournment | A roll call vote unanimously approved a motion by Marie, seconded by Anita, to adjourn at 8:15PM | |

Next Regular Meeting – August 10, 2023 @ 7PM. NOTE: This will be an in-person 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