

MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting of April 14, 2011

**Present:**

Audrey Fraizer – Chair  
Andy Hughes, Andy Seale, Hub Seward, Becky Lorette - Full Members  
Wayne Hardy, Rodney DellaFelice - Alternate Members  
Fred Elkind - Conservation Coordinator

**Excused:**

Diane Fitzpatrick, Kim Rimalover, Chris Costantino

**Also Present:**

Curtis Hansen

The public meeting of the Milford Conservation Commission was called to order by Audrey Fraizer at 7:00PM

**MINUTES:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Audrey called for the approval of the minutes. Wayne H. moved that the minutes of the March 10, 2011 meeting be accepted as presented. Rodney D. seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

**Unfinished Business:**

**1. Southern NH Trails and Outdoor Expo.** - Audrey summarized the event and indicated that it seemed to be quite successful. She thanked Fred for the effort and presented him with a gift certificate for The Rustic Leaf.

Fred provided an accounting, to date, for the event which indicated that the net proceeds to the Trails Fund was \$736.10. Additional funds are expected from Toadstool Bookshops sales.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of the event and Mr. Hansen provided his views as well. The general sense was that everything went well but that the marketing efforts were not as successful as had been hoped. While the Milford area was covered by signs and print media, the coverage was not as effective outside of the area. The suggestion was made that social media needs to be used more effectively since the print media does not reach as many as it once did. Additionally, coverage on WMUR, some radio stations, and a dedicated website could be effective.

The Commission discussed the possibility of putting on another expo next year. Andy H. suggested that perhaps the every-other year approach may be better and would require less effort. Fred noted that as many as 2/3 of the exhibitors indicated a desire to return. If we wait 2 years we

could lose many of them. The process has been established and many of the steps would not have to be repeated if there is a smooth transition to the next expo. Fred was not sure that a two year hiatus would allow for an efficient transition and it might be like starting over.

Becky questioned if there were any comments about the falcons. Fred indicated he hadn't heard any negatives. Becky indicated some visitors were disappointed in the amount of information that was being provided by the falconers.

The Commission decided to put off any decisions until next meeting.

**2. Lyme Disease** - Audrey asked Fred to summarize the issue. Fred indicated that there is information that suggests Lyme Disease may be much more common than the professionals believe. Few doctors are considered experts. Those who are promoting efforts to deal with Lyme Disease would like to see Milford take a proactive role. Rodney noted that he was at the Lyme Disease Community Awareness program on April 5. The presentations were disturbing. However, it is not obvious what is fact and what is supposition. However, the problem does appear to be significant. Andy S. discussed a recent hike in the woods where he found about seven deer ticks on his body. The ticks are common.

Fred indicated that there are a few things that the Commission can do. We can provide information at the trail heads and we can use herbicides to keep the ticks away from the trails. Andy H. did not feel that the use of herbicides was warranted. The Commission felt that education is important at this point and that we should coordinate efforts with other town departments such as DPW and Recreation. Fred is to look into this.

**3. SoRLAC Representative** - With Diane's resignation from the SoRLAC, there is an opening that should be filled by a Milford person who represents the Conservation Commission. Yvonne Beran has indicated an interest in the position. The Commission supports her in the effort and suggested that she check with SoRLAC to make sure it is the type of activity she is interested in. Once she makes her final decision, the Commission will place her name for consideration by the BOS.

### **New Business:**

**1. Expedited Wetlands Permit Application - 1 Elm St.-** The significant portions of the application had been emailed to the members for review. A failed foundation drain was allowing water into the lower floor of the structure. The applicant wants to repair the drain but that requires work within the banks of Great Brook. Bill McKinney and Fred had met with the contractors early in the process and made some suggestions. One of the suggestions was to contact Frank Richardson of the Wetlands Bureau about an "emergency" approval. The applicant, apparently on the suggestion of Mr. Richardson, prepared an expedited permit application. However, little information was submitted. Fred had discussed this with both the owner and the contractor and some additional, but minimal information has been received.

Fred and Bill McKinney inspected the site again on April 14 and found that the work had been completed. No issues with the work were identified.

The question was whether the work had been completed with the knowledge of DES.

The Commission authorized the chair to sign the expedited permit application but requested that Fred hold the application until discussions with Frank Richardson indicated that the work occurred in a manner that Frank anticipated.

**2. Engineer Selection - Melendy Rd. Underpass** - Proposals were received from Meridian Land Services, Fieldstone Land Consultants, TFMoran, Inc. and Louis Berger, Inc. CLD opted not to submit a proposal.

Fred met with Bill Ruoff to discuss the technical aspects of the proposals. The conclusion was that all of the firms had the qualifications to perform the work outlined in the RFP.

The proposed costs ranged from a low of \$5600 to a high of \$40,000. However, some of the proposals included work elements that were not requested. Additionally, it has been determined that subsurface investigations, while not included in the RFP, will be needed.

The Commission requested that Fred prepare a table that compares the proposals on the basis of the requested work. A decision will be made on or before the next meeting.

Concerns were expressed about contract language. Issues such as who owns the final product were discussed. Fred indicated that the engineers own their work but that the RFP identified that plans and electronic copies would be made available to the Commission for its use.

**3. High School Community Service-** Fred was contacted by Steve Vetack from the High School who indicated that the High School Social Studies program was looking for opportunities for students to perform community service. He suggested that work on the trails may be an option. The Commission determined that Fred should send the relevant information to Brian Hawkins and CLMC to follow-up. Fred noted that Brian already has several high school students on the volunteer list.

### **Interdepartmental Reviews**

None

### **Reports:**

**1. Trail Hikes** - Audrey reported that 17 people and 3 dogs were present for the hike at the Joe English preserve in Amherst. The hikers all seemed to enjoy themselves. Five continued on for an extended hike.

**2. Hitchiner Bridge** - Fred outlined the Eagle Scout project which included repair of a bridge, picnic tables and removing graffiti from the pavilion. A bake sale was held on April 14 to raise funds.

Fred noted that the scouts could use some guidance in dealing with agencies. Approvals were requested last minute and the project plan was only recently supplied. Chris has been in touch with Tyler St.Gelais, the Eagle Scout candidate, and has provided guidance from the Commission's point of view.

The work is planned for this weekend.

**Announcements:**

None

**Communications:**

None

There being no other business to come before the Conservation Commission, Audrey adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

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Diane Fitzpatrick

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Hub Seward

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Rod DellaFelice

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Chris Costantino

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Wayne Hardy

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Audrey Fraizer

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Becky Lorette

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Andy Hughes

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Andy Seale

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Kim Rimalover