



Approved: April 20, 2015

Minutes 03-16-2015

Present: Rob Meader, Ken Minck, Suzanna Brown, Nancy Volatile-Wood, Kent Henderson, Bill Ellis, and Fred Grimm

Guests: Chris Letourneau, Matt Crawford, Heather Grimm, and Abby Ledoux with the Milton Independent.

7:06 Call to order

Mike McCarthy joined the meeting at 7:25

Minutes: January minutes were approved unanimously with 1 change

Financial: General fund \$25,879.24 and CRF \$180,711.47

SB Minutes: Chris and Matt to discuss items from the 3-9-15 SB meeting joined the commission

1. RGNA parking: One proposal for the engineering of the parking lot has been received from Ruggiano Engineering dated 1-6-15. IAW town purchase procedures Chris and Matt directed Mike McCarthy to solicit 2 additional bids. The commission requested the plot survey be included in the bid process as the location of the parking area is very specific and cannot be located in the 100' buffer zone and the surfacing material must be of pervious surface substance. This bid does not include any construction costs. An Act 250 amendment may be required, as the subdivision when conceived only allowed 1 road cut on 104A.
2. Commission members, The Commission had requested the SB to reduce the number of members to 7 in their January minutes. Rob read a note from Edmund Wilcox indicating he had resigned; this brings the current commission members to 7. The SB will re-appoint KH & FG at their next meeting. Commission officers will be addressed at the April meeting of the GCC.
3. Conservation Reserve Fund: The SB is wondering about a ceiling for the fund. Discussion proceeded about this topic; more information needs to be

collected before any decision can be made. The Commission and Mike McCarthy will pursue acquiring additional information.

4. Town Meeting discussion: The SB accused the GCC of grand standing at the annual town meeting. (3-9-15 SB minutes) Rob assured the SB members there was no pre-conceived notion to do anything of that nature. Nancy took exception to the SB comments and requested that the minutes reflect that. Chris admitted the handling of the Deer Brook RGNA right of way issue was handled in a sloppy manner. Discussion ensued about communication problems with the GCC and the SB. Going forward any issues relating to the conservation commission need to be brought up for discussion before any final decisions are made.

On-going business:

By-laws-Tabled

Henley Webster Forest sign-Tabled

New-business:

Election of officers-Tabled

Apple tree pruning demo-Coyotes house 3-28-15 at 9AM

Rob to submit bills to Amber for; Edmunds plaque \$____, Green-Up Vermont \$200 and FNCL \$600.

Kent: Suggested research options for the Conservation Reserve Fund need to be pursued.

Heather Grimm: Heather thought we should enlist "Big Children" with the commission activities, she suggested National Assn. of Conservation Districts- "Stewardship Week" The "Four Winds" program at the school always needs volunteers for a couple of hours a month. Training is available. Heather suggested a scholarship plaque would be a great addition, where to hang it was discussed.

Vermont PuppeTree's: Green-Up Vermont puppet show-Heather volunteered to check with and the school about bringing the show to the school or library, the show costs \$250

Lewis Creek Association gully stabilization project, techniques might be employed on gully blowouts on the Falls Road. A site visit in April will be organized by email survey when Marty Illick contacts Kent to find a suitable date and time,

US Rt. 7/VT104A storm water issues: Revitalize SB interest in this highest priority area as identified in 2011 by FNLC and Stone Environmental Storm Water Management Plan.

Green-UP May 2nd: Rob will start communications with the Social Circles when the date gets a little closer.

National Trails Day: RGNA work morning for Trail committee members and GCC members, public not to be extended invites at this time because of inadequate parking capacity.

Other:

Fred to look into a Raptor program for the September Fall Fest.

Rob asked the members for an asset inventory: SB Laptop and Chainsaw, KM GPS, Weed wrench, 3 signs to be installed, and "A" frame display board. 2 Picnic tables at RGNA, 1 Picnic table at the town garage, 1 "Wayside" sign at Mill River Natural Area and 1 "Wayside" sign in storage at the town garage.(RGNA) Rob checking where the forestry tools are located.

*2015 Budget: Line items: Fees and Education \$500, Trail Maintenance and RGNA forest management plan \$1500
Conservation Reserve Fund \$14,000
Funded by monies in the GCC general account: Scholarship \$500, ROW \$1000, FNLC \$600, Green-up VT \$200 RGNA Parking lot \$12,000
VYCC Mini Grant: \$600*