



Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Community Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468

In Person and/or Via Zoom

Members Present: Laurie DiCesare, Tim Cunningham, Joseph Duquette, Steve Mitchell, Bonnie Pease, William Pikul, Colin Santee and Bonnie Whitlock.

Members absent: Kris Dulmer (Tree Warden/MCC Liaison)

Staff Present: Amanda Pitts (Planning & Zoning Director), Cassandra LaFayette (Planning & Zoning Officer).

Public Present: Irene Wrenner

I. Call to Order

W. Pikul called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

II. Agenda Review

W. Pikul added two items: Tiny Grants & Farmer's Market

III. Public Forum

No public comments.

IV. Business

- **New Position Open on the MCC, need to vote for a new Treasurer**

B. Paret was elected to the Select Board and is unable to continue as a MCC member. W. Pikul will contact E. Eguralnick who attended last month's meeting and voiced an interest in joining the MCC. S. Mitchell agreed to continue the Project List. C. Santee moved that we elect T. Cunningham as Treasurer. B. Pease seconded. All Approved. Motion passed.

- **TF ADA Trail Viewing Platform Updates**

W. Pikul said the remaining parts have been ordered. The custom bench brackets will be finished in the next two weeks. The lumber has been milled. W. Pikul will put up the signs.

- **Inventory for Milton's Natural Resources update**

C. Santee is e-mailing potential consultants and other regional Conservation Commissions that have used their services.

- **Presentation of the MTF Signage and Map**

S. Mitchell presented an updated version of the map and signage. He will talk with the Milton Historical Society about photos. Contact information will include a Town Office phone number and a QR code that leads to our website. Base price for the map and two panels is ~\$288.00. Discussion about adding a new trail around Milton Marsh to the map. Bonnie and Brian Pease have already mapped out a potential route. Work on the Marsh trail is expected to be completed this summer. S. Mitchell will present the final draft signage at our next MCC meeting.

- **Discussion on the Development of the MTF Kiosk**

W. Pikul and J. Duquette will meet at Bombardier on Saturday at 10 a.m. to work on the kiosk project. Joseph added space for a temporary notice (as announcing wet/muddy trails). C. LaFayette (staff) recommended we also need space for health notices.

- **Review of Project list**

MTF: T. Cunningham and K. Dulmer cut a tree that was obstructing the Pond Circuit East bypass trail near Milton Marsh. We will wait for the mud to dry before marking the trail.

Eagle Mtn.: W. Pikul will check out the downed tree.

- **VT Center for Ecostudies' Tiny Grants**

B. Whitlock will work with S. Mitchell and the PZ Dept. to apply for a Tiny Grant to pay for the MTF kiosk.

- **Green Up Day (May 2, 2026)**

C. Santee expressed thanks to Ben and Hannah in Recreation Department for their Green-Up Day preparation. The green bags and posters have arrived. They will buy food from local vendors. L. DiCesare will set up a table with BioBlitz information at the Bombardier Park East picnic pavilion.

- **Milton Farmers' Market**

W. Pikul asked about our interest in staffing a tent at the Milton Farmers' Market from 4 to 8 p.m. on some Tuesdays this Summer. The Commission agreed this is a good idea so he will talk with Hannah (Recreation Dept.) about the details. Trail Related Items, (new trails, relocating trails).

- **Last Bench Placement**

S. Mitchell mentioned possible sites for the small bench placement. We will consider making more small benches at Green-Up Day.

- **Road Signs on Rt. 7 for the Lamoille River Walk Trailheads (new POC)**

[Tabled]

- **BioBlitz Updates and where we stand for July 25-26**

- L. DiCesare will send a descriptive paragraph to C. Santee for posting in the Recreation Dept's brochure. C. LaFayette (staff) has offered to help with publicity for the event. L. DiCesare is urging MCC members and staff to join iNaturalist (via the VT Center for Ecostudies website) so we can help the public sign up.
- iNaturalist Presentation (June 23, 2026): Dana Williams from VT Center for Ecostudies will offer a public iNaturalist Program at our June meeting. L. DiCesare e-mailed to ask her to set up our group site including the week before and after the BioBlitz.
- Walk Leaders: L. DiCesare is writing to the Maine Entomological Society (MES) and other VT organizations about potential walk leaders. So far one botanist, two naturalists and one birder have voiced an interest in participating in the BioBlitz.
- L. DiCesare will send MCC members a condensed BioBlitz Update.

- **Rain Garden Walkthrough**

On March 20, 2026, L. DiCesare met with Lucas Goldfluss of Winooski Natural Resources District (WNRCD) to consider a potential rain garden site. We currently have two rain gardens, one by the entrance to the Town Office and one at the end of the Town Office parking lot. A librarian mentioned that there once was a rain garden at the back of the library. Lucas said that might be a good site. L. DiCesare will ask if the library has any plans from the former rain garden and will

work with the Planning Dept. on site choice. Once we decide on a site, Lucas would be available for a rain garden installation / photo opportunity on Wed. June 10. A WNRCD grant would pay for the plants. Lucas also spoke with Hannah in Recreation.

▪ **Treasurer's Report**

[Tabled]

▪ **Staff Updates (Kris Dulmer)**

K. Dulmer was not in attendance and sent updates to W. Pikul. C. LaFayette & A. Pitts (staff) are now points of contact and shared how they can support moving forward.

▪ **Nature Notes**

- L. DiCesare shared the "Amphibian Road Crossing Program". This North Branch Nature Center program aired March 24, 2026. Google northbranchnaturecenter.org to see posted program. Please report any Milton road-crossing sites to them.
- B. Pease has seen a pileated woodpecker and raccoon on her game camera. She's also seen a great blue heron and turkey vulture. L. DiCesare saw an opossum. She urged everyone to document the species they photograph on iNaturalist.

V. Approval of Minutes from Conservation Commission Meeting on January 27, 2025

C. Santee moved that we approve the Minutes of Feb. 24, 2026 (*January minute reference was an error*). S. Mitchell seconded. (February) All Approved. Minutes approved.

VI. Adjournment

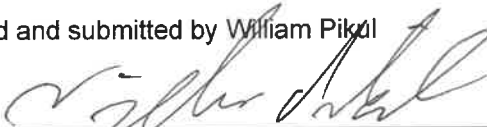
C. Santee moved that we adjourn. S. Mitchell seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

All documents pertaining to this meeting may be viewed using the following link:

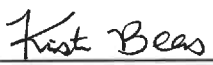
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Minutes recorded and submitted by William Pikul

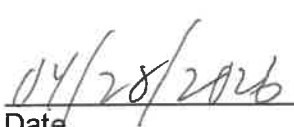
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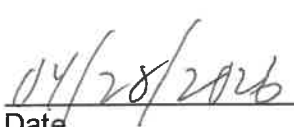
William Pikul, Chair



Milton Town Clerk



Date



5/1/2026
Filed this day with the Milton
Town Clerk's Office.