



Regular Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Community Room, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468
In Person and/or Via Zoom

Members Present: William Pikul, Chair; Bonnie Pease, Vice Chair; Tim Cunningham; Treasurer; Colin Santee, Member (remote); Joseph Duquette, Member; Steve Mitchell, Member; Bill Kirby, Member; and Bonnie Whitlock; Member

Members absent: Laurie DiCesare, Clerk

Staff Present: Cassandra LaFayette (Town Planner).

Public Present: N/A

I. Call to Order

William called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

II. Agenda Review

No changes made.

III. Approval of Minutes from the July 22, 2026

The Minutes from July 22, 2026, minutes were reviewed. Minor changes were recommended and accepted. Motion made by J. Duquette and seconded by T. Cunningham. Motion carried 6-0, with B. Pease and B. Kirby abstaining.

IV. Public Forum

No public forum.

V. Business

A. New Member Introduction.

B. Kirby introduced himself to the members and highlighted some of the experience he'll bring to the commission.

B. BioBlitz Completion and Final Numbers

The 2026 Milton BioBlitz resulted in 1,467 observations, 581 species, 48 observers, and 199 identifiers. Future use of the data and incorporation into the natural resources inventory discussed.

C. Milton Town Forest Kiosk, Building In Progress Final material purchase from Tiny Grant Funds

Kiosk construction and remaining materials discussed. Motion made to authorize up to \$600 for final construction of the Town Forest kiosk, utilizing remaining Tiny Grant funds and the Commission budget as necessary, with a second. Motion approved unanimously. Installation tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

D. Town Forest Nature Interpretive Signs on the ADA Viewing Platform Trail

<https://naturewalksigns.com/products/nature-signs/>

Interpretive signage for the accessible trail and ADA viewing platform discussed. Sign accessibility, educational topics, and potential QR code use discussed. Steve will develop preliminary concepts; staff will research accessibility guidance.

E. New Trail at the Town Forest, process to Name and complete

New Town Forest trail discussed. Site walk scheduled for August 29, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at the main Town Forest entrance.

F. Lamaille River Walk Kiosk Updates and presentation

Draft kiosk signage and trail map reviewed and presented by S. Mitchell. Commission agreed to remove the trail spur outside the Town's established access area from the map. Interpretive signage at existing numbered posts discussed.

G. Selling the Natural area stickers at the Milton Artist's Guild

S. Mitchell presented potential sale of natural-area stickers through the Milton Artists' Guild discussed, including proposed pricing and a 60/40 revenue arrangement. Staff will coordinate with Finance regarding the appropriate mechanism for receiving funds.

H. MCC Business Cards

Business cards with a QR code linking to Conservation Commission and trail information discussed. Motion made to research business card design, content, and cost, with a second. Motion approved unanimously.

I. Music in the Park Series 18 Aug Attendance.

August 18, 2026, Music in the Park participation reviewed. Future event participation and additional informational materials discussed.

J. MCC Project List review, add in next priorities. (Final Bench Placement, Lamoille River Walk and Milton Town Forest), Replacement of the VYCC bridge on the Town Forest Trail

Town Forest kiosk installation, ADA trail maintenance, and Town Forest bridge improvements identified as current priorities. Parking-area improvements, grant opportunities, and trail maintenance discussed.

K. Replacement of the Hoyt Lookout Sign

Commission supported installation following repainting of the lettering for improved visibility.

L. MCC photo and ribbon cutting discussion

No photo date or ribbon cutting ceremony date established. Annual officer elections were also discussed, but no action was taken.

M. Treasurer's Report

Current budget, Tiny Grant funds, kiosk expenses, Commission shirts, and establishment of a mechanism for Conservation Commission donations discussed.

N. Staff Updates

Open Meeting Law resources, Town Forest mapping for Public Safety, and reported Town Forest activity discussed. Staff provided an update on Milton Pond and the ongoing assessment of the dam. Future Conservation Commission involvement anticipated as the project progresses. Development of a future Conservation Commission work/management plan and natural resources inventory also discussed.

O. Nature Notes

W. Pikul shared that a black bear and two cubs observed on a residential wildlife camera.

VI. Staff Updates

Staff reported that the Selectboard approved moving forward with the UVM watershed monitoring study. The project will support future stormwater and phosphorus management efforts while providing valuable environmental data for the Town. Field work is anticipated to begin in August.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn T. Cunningham. Seconded by J. Duquette Approved unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

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

https://miltonvt.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TownOfMiltonFilesFolders/lgB8qTbZD8ECSINGDkulBiMBAWDWSVN1MlfSsd_CbRnSdPE?e=98cDys

Minutes recorded and submitted by William Pikul

APPROVED
MINUTES:

William Pikul, Chair

Date

Milton Town Clerk

Filed this day with the Milton
Town Clerk's Office.