



Sept 18, 2025

**Attendees:** Jerry Throne, Dave Stevens, Jim Pease, Sandra Zebal, Hilary Warner, Nancy Dunavan, Chris Espejo

**Members absent:** Pamela Stanyon, Brent Teillon

**Guests:** Peter Bourne, Ron Stancliff, Matt Kelly (SLT)

**Online Guests:** Richard Craig

Meeting opened at 5:01 PM.

August meeting minutes were approved

**A. Guest Speaker-**Matt Kelly Stowe Land Trust Muddy Moose Property- Jerry: Will draft and send a letter of support for Stowe Land Trust's VHCB grant application by the MCC. Members are to review and comment. Matt Kelly sent a Word document of a suggested draft letter to Jerry and he will adapted it. Matt Kelly will consider reaching out to the Hyde Park Village and Town for additional letters of support. Stowe Land Trust has discussed the need to develop a plan for parking area at the Cote Hill Road property. Stowe Land Trust will also apply for the Lake Champlain Basin Program grant by November. The SLT attorney is currently reviewing the contract between SLT and the property owner. A letter from MCC is nonbinding and requires no financial support. The 18 acre housing parcel is a separate project. SLT is looking for the Town/MCC to work with them to monitor and maintain the land regularly after acquisition. SLT will implement amenities like doggy bag stations similar to their Stowe properties. The hope is to close the acquisition this winter. A motion was made by Hilary to send Matt the letter when it was finalized. The motion was approved unanimously.

**B. Public Comments-**Ron Stancliff updated the MCC on the W&L Bugbee Springs property. There will be a cable gate with lock on the entrance road. We will be allowed access to the property by W&L.

**C. New Business-**Jerry mentioned that Water and Light is expecting state approval of their permit, which may require implementing recreational opportunities at Clark Park as outlined in the town plan. We need to start preparing for upcoming discussions about Clark Park related to Water and Light permit requirements. Access to the park would be from the park-and-ride lot adjacent to Bridge Street and the Bypass. The group discussed potential trail development in the area, including using a sewer line right-of-way and existing paths. It was noted, Water and Light has safety and vandalism concerns for public access from the B Street bridge, around the dam gorge, and acknowledged that any trail development would likely require involvement from Water and Light due to permit requirements. The group agreed that more planning and coordination would be needed before any significant trail work could begin, with Water and Light potentially playing a key role in the development process.

**D. Old Business-**

**1. Rocktoberfest-** Sandy, Nancy, and Pam will set up the Conservation Commission table at Rocktoberfest on September 27th by 8 AM, using new posters and a tri-fold brochure

featuring the commission's logo and land conservation benefits. They also ordered a waterproof tablecloth for their display. Sandra expressed gratitude for the professional design of the materials, which she felt would effectively educate the public about conservation efforts. Jerry and will help with tent setup for Rocktoberfest at 8 AM. Commission members need to coordinate amongst themselves to create a schedule for staffing the Rocktoberfest table from 8 AM to 5 PM. Jerry: will check with Adele about the availability of additional tables for Rocktoberfest. Sandy will pick up the tent and other display materials from Hillary for Rocktoberfest

**2. Student Mentor-** Hillary completed a revised draft for a non-voting student member position, which is pending review by the school principal and Jerry needs to send it to the Select Board for approval.

**3. Renewal of CD/New Funds-**The group discussed the management of upcoming funds, with Brent having indicated they would be available in mid-November, consisting of \$37,664 from a CD reinvestment and \$29,188 from the quarter cent source. They debated whether to keep the funds in a money market account for easy access or reinvest in a CD for higher returns, with the minimum CD term being 6 months. The group also touched on the need to be able to access funds for any potential future land conservation efforts that may present themselves though no specific prospects are known at this time.

**4.Trails Update-**Members discussed remaining maintenance work and a proposed workday on October 4th, Peter and Brent need to get more wood from, P&R for 3 bridges on the Interior Trail. The PA track team may be helping.

**5. Bylaws Revisions-** Continued until October. Brent needs to attend.

**6. Airport Industrial Park-**The town is awaiting a decision from the Act 250 Commission regarding the Airport Industrial Park, with the possibility of appeals regardless of the outcome. The Selectboard letter was submitted. We have requested the mailing list of all interested parties or residents with concerns about the proposed industrial park.

**7. Town Website Revisions-** All of the revisions have been completed. Members should review.

**8. MCC member job description-** Continued until October. Pam needs to attend.

**9. Tick-borne Disease Awareness project-** Continued until October. Brent and Evelyn need to attend.

**10. Special MCC Vision Meeting-** A special meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 26th to review the vision and strategy document.

**11. Recycling & Trash Talk-** LRSWMD is planning its second annual recycling and trash talk event for October 25th at 10 AM, with notices being distributed through various channels. Evelyn will be doing the publicity with the N&C and FPF.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm

Respectively submitted, Jim Pease, Secretary