

Morristown Conservation Committee
Tegu Building and available via Zoom
Call to order 6:00

Members present: Ron Stancliff, Jerry Throne, Sandy Zebal, Jess Zehngut, Brent Teillon
Members absent: Jim Pease, Dave Stevens, Pamela Stanyon

1. The sole purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the language used for a potential MCC article to be added to the 2025 town meeting ballot and request that the Selectboard add the article to the agenda for its November 20 budget hearing. The article would ask voters to support a ½ cent increase to the grand list to raise funds for the MCC with the purpose of fulfilling the 'land acquisition' component of our bylaws.

The commission discussed using language similar to that used when the article last passed. Jerry noted that after speaking to the town administrator, his impression was that we need to include more specificity regarding what the money would be used for. Brent added that many of the articles on previous ballots are longer and provided more detail than the MCC article. Brent expressed the importance of having an article included on the ballot now, feeling that going through the petition process may be less well-received by the public.

Discussion ensued regarding what level of specificity would be the most effective. Ron mentioned having approached Dr. Lundblad with respect to the land bordering Duhamel, but Dr. Lundblad expressed that he was not interested at that time.

Jess expressed concern about naming specific landowners/parcels, particularly one an owner has declined to discuss, and asked about using the general 'land acquisition' included in the MCC bylaws. Brent echoed the sentiment, having had discussions with another family and recognizing the need for sensitivity around the issue.

Jerry felt that more specificity than simply 'land acquisition' is needed. Jess suggested using language focused on 'expanding Town Forests' and Jerry proposed including that the commission is talking to several landowners.

Jerry mentioned that there are many grants available which match funds up to 5:1, citing Richmond in particular.

There was a discrepancy between the dates posted on the town website and those on the Zoom calendar for the Selectboard meeting. Jerry volunteered to clarify with the town office and let the commission know.

Jerry will compose the request to the Selectboard and circulate it for MCC member review.

Jess moved that Brent, Jerry, and Ron attend the Selectboard meeting to propose our article be added to the 2025 Town Meeting ballot. Brent seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jess motioned to adjourn. Brent seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted,
Jess Zehngut