

Morristown Conservation Commission

September, 19, 2024

Members present: Ron Stancliff, Dave Stevens, Jim Pease, Pamela Stanyon, Sandra Zebal

Members Absent: Brent Teillon, Jerry Throne, Jessica Zengut

Guests: none

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm

The August 15 meeting minutes were amended for minor corrections and approved.

Treasurers Report: Brent: I checked in with Tina Sweet, Morristown Finance officer for the following information:

1. MCC CD = \$34,736.32

2. MCC Money Market = \$3,467.53

We had no expenses charged to MCC during the last two months.

New Business:

1. Future Guest Speakers-Ron will talk to Shannon Morrison of VTDEC Wetlands office about topics to discuss and possible dates. Other possible speakers: Emily Potter of Forest, Parks and Recreation; someone from Audubon Society/Birds of VT Museum; some from VTDEC Fish and Wildlife to discuss bat monitoring.

2. MCC Vacancy-Kari is on maternity leave. Possible replacements are: Evelyn Throne and Hilary Warner. We should advertiser for the opening in FPF and N&C. We will ask Hilary first in October.

Old Business:

1. Duhamel Pit Reforestation-Ron has contacted Susan Baird at the Act 250 office about the reforestation requirement in the Town's Act 250 permit. She told him we need to get formal approval from the Act 250 board for any amendments to the reforestation plan. The current permit requires the Town to mow some of the restored Pit areas which means the forest will never secede on about 15 acres of the property. We would need to ask the SB for approval to apply for this amendment. Pam made the motion that we ask the SB for approval to propose an amendment to the permit to remove the mowing requirement and allow for reforestation of these areas. Discussion: Dave was concerned about the potential cost. Ron replied that we could apply for grants and that the community-schools would be involved to keep the cost low. We would need to plant about 350 tree plugs for natural spacing which cost about \$1.50/plug. Estimated cost is \$700-1000. Dave has done some research on costs based on spacing decisions. The motion was approved by a majority.

2. Beaver Baffles-TH43-now that the culvert on the road has been cleaned out we need to consider adding a beaver baffle to protect the road from future flooding. TH43 is a

VAST trail. We need to find out the cost of a baffle and what the grant options are. Ron made the motion for Jim to look into beaver controls/baffles for TH43. The motion passed by a majority.

3. MSI Industrial Park Act 250 hearing-Jim mentioned that the request by MSI to install the water tower on Stage Coach Rd was approved by the DRB. The MCC needs to observe more closely the DRB and Planning Council meetings. Discussion involved should MCC have a rotational assignment of a member to attend these meetings? Or read the minutes for each meeting and report? We know Jerry T might be interested in doing this. Further discussion was postponed until October.

4. Green Up data/Treasurers Report-Dave made the motion to add both the Greenup Data and the Treasurers Report to the September meeting minutes. The motion was approved.

5.Questionnaire-Pam is working on this. The purpose of the questionnaire is to get Morristown's feedback on Conservation. There are 5 Draft questions with a scale of 1-4. or yes/no. The questionnaire should be no longer than 5 minutes. We can do this digitally via FPF. It should be restricted to Morristown residents and can be anonymous. We should expect 10--30% response from those surveyed. The draft will be circulated to MCC members for review.

6. Potash Brook Discussion-postponed until Jessica attends in October. We should consider proposing the buffer for all named non intermittent streams in Town.

7. Copley Trails-MCC needs to improve the 100 foot steep section at the entrance trail. We could modify it with switchbacks. Ron will initiate a survey of this area.

8. 2025 Arbor Day Planning-this will be part of the Duhamel pit planting plan.

9. Oxbow Planting-this will be held at the end of October and advertised in FPF.

Member Reports:

Ron reported American Chestnut trees will be planted at Bugbee Springs.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Jim Pease, Secretary

GREENUP REPORT from Brent:

2023 data has gone to storage downstairs and not readily available. Tina and I agreed this year's tonnage was greater. Possible reason was the village/town highway cleaned out garage added some heavy junk. The take home message is that Green Up Day trash is very similar to last year. As has been reported before, the spring roadside cleanup is not decreasing but remaining more or less at the same level. Tire numbers are up slightly by at least 40 tires due to Village/town highway clean up and residents bringing in slightly more tires for disposal. Without annual Green Up the roadside trash could really accumulate.

Numbers from Dana Sweet:

1. Disposal Cost for large Dumpster= \$790.
2. Weight=2.74 tons
3. K&S tire disposal - \$865
4. 160 light weight passenger tires, 1 tractor tire, 8 rims.