

November 21, 2024

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Jerry Throne, Dave Stevens, Jim Pease, Pamela Stanyon, Sandra Zebal, Jess Zehngut, Brent Teillon

Members Absent:

Guests: Gunner Nurme (on line), Hilary Warner, Evelyn Throne

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 6:30

The October meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

The November Special meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurers Report this month.

New Business

1. Land use Data-Ron handed out 1 of 4 pages of Morristown land use and a tax map example. We are to review and research various properties on the list that we believe might be interested in conserving their land in the future.
2. Presentation by Gunner Nurme on possible Elmore State Park acquisition. The state is interested in purchasing a 90 acre parcel on Upper Elmore Mt Rd to be added to Elmore State Park. The parcel would provide access to the park from the western side of the mountain. He is going to present this information to the Select Board on Dec. 2. If we support the purchase he would like to receive a letter of support from MCC. The property is currently owned by the Burke family. He sent additional information about the purchase to Ron and Jerry. Ron and Jerry will circulate this information to the commission. The information will include numbers about the PILOT payment from the state concerning the loss of taxes to the Town. The first year the payment will cover the entire taxes; in following year the amount will decrease to about the payment the Town would get if the parcel was in Current Use. There was general agreement that this purchase is consistent with the purpose and mission of the Commission. Ron made a motion to support the purchase on the eastern side of Upper Elmore Mt Road. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Ron and Jerry will write a letter of support and circulate it to the Commission.
3. Act 250 hearing on MSI industrial Park on Rte 100-Jim summarized the prehearing at River Arts last week. The meeting was well attended including the Town Manager and about 30 residents. The meeting was to determine who would qualify as parties to the hearing. Discussion involved what role the Commission could take in the hearing. The hearing is likely to be in January. We should send a letter to the Select board requesting the Commission be involved in the Town's response to the proposed park and the Town's role as a party to the hearings. Brent made the motion to draft a letter. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Ron and Jerry will draft a letter.
4. VACD membership- a motion was made to approve the \$25 annual membership fee for the VACD. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
5. There will be a speaker from the Stowe Land Trust at 6 pm at the December commission meeting.

Old Business

1. Duhamel Property-Ron has forwarded a tree catalog for everyone to see. We would need to spend about \$400 for 60 White Pine seedlings for the restoration area. Should we spend \$1000 for more trees? We must make a decision by January 2025. Pam is drafting a grant proposal which will be due December 13th and requires a 50% match in dollars or in-kind labor. Dave and Brent will help Pam with the proposal.
2. Potash Brook-Ron handed out a list of streams on the north side of the Lamoille in Town that do not have names. Later this winter he should have a complete list of unnamed streams in Town. We will then request or suggest names that the Select Board can use to name them. This is the first step to asking for some type of stream buffer or setback on them.
3. Copley Demars Trail-we need to come up with a design and cost estimate for the section of steep slope on the trail.
4. Survey-to complete a sliding scale survey with Survey Monkey on FPF would cost \$300. You can ask 10 questions with yes/no answers for free. We could do several surveys of 10 questions each and then compile the data. Or we could complete the survey and hand it out at the Town pie social/information meeting in January. We need to decide in December.
5. Other-do we need to draft more language for the Select Board to review for the request to increase the Conservation Fund at Town Meeting? Do we need more information/packet with this request? The total request is about \$35,000 (later revised to \$56,000) with a 1/2 cent tax on the grand list.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 to go into Executive Session. The executive session adjourned at 8:24.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease, Secretary