February 20, 2025

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Jerry Throne, Dave Stevens, Jim Pease, Sandra Zebal, Brent Teillon, Hilary Warner
Members not present: Pamela Stanyon

Guests: Evelyn Throne, Kristin Fogdall, Nancy and Tim Dunavan

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 7:06
The January meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Brent provided a Treasurers report via email. The MCC has $4319.90 in checking and $34,736.32 in a CD for the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund. The $1000 previous donation has been added to the latter fund.

New Business

1. New MCC Meeting Time-Ron made the motion to move the MCC meeting time to 5:00 for all future meetings (but may be changed to 5:30) and to modify the bylaws if so written. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Trails Committee formation-Hilary and Brent discussed the need for a trails committee to manage the trails at the MTF, Copley, the 9 developments with conservation subdivisions, Clark Park, etc. Fran Slaydk maintains a map of all of these trails. Should we form a committee to manage volunteers to complete trail maintenance activities on these properties that have MCC trail responsibilities? This will be discussed at the March meeting.

Old Business

1. 2322 Laporte Rd LLC/MSI Industrial Park-Jerry and Jim are the designated representatives for the Act 250 hearing on this project proposed for March 12 at the Tegu Building. We have permission to attend/take notes/ask questions. The Selectboard and Brent would like us to submit all questions prior to the meeting for review. The MCC will compile all questions by Jerry and they need to be submitted to the SB by March 5. After the meeting it was determined that MCC would also be able to present evidence and testimony. Ron raised the issue of the power line ROW in the park but Jerry stated that Scott at W/L was not concerned. MW&L stated that they researched the history of the transmission lines and believe they were built in the early 1900's. prior to the ROW/Easement document that Ron found, which is believed to be for a service line to a building. Jim later spoke with Ron Rodjenski who stated that an easement ROW (public or private) is not the same as a property line for zoning regulations. It would appear that the Town Plan inconsistency is the most problematic issue. Kristin provided a memo of what the statutory parties had found to date. She stated that the Act 250 board is not interested in the DRB decision unless they ask for information. She said they were interested in the projects consistency with the Town Plan language. Four residents are commenting on the Town Plan, drinking water-ground water source protection areas, two federally protected species (bat and sparrow) and the ANR summary memo. She provided copies of the memo to members of the committee. If the project were completed without any blasting of the hillock it would be reduced to 77 acres in size with 20 industrial lots.

2. Questionnaire update – Pam was not present. Jerry will get an update also from Kristin Connelly as to previous questionnaire data and Pam will work to update the questionnaire. Stowe Land Trust (SLT) will also add some questions.

3. Voter Outreach for Conservation Fund-Sandy has a put a very clear/concise article in FPF and the N&C.

4. Copley Trail – Ron will meet with Urban Martin in the spring and report back. Ron has retired as chair but will remain involved. Hilary talked to counselors at Lamoille Health Partners Behavioral Health about their concerns with the steep hillside trail and an improvement of that would be very much appreciated.

5.Muddy Moose – Brent reported that the property is a remote, steep, wooded, erosion free site with a mixed hardwood/hemlock forest. There are 5 miles of trails and a good flat area for parking. A new trail would need to be scouted around the cabins from the parking area to the trails. There are also beautiful dense hemlocks, there are 3 or so waterfalls, including one of the better waterfalls in town. Chuck Pepe is interested in proceeding but does not know how to do that. Tom Rogers from SLT may be willing to help, SLT is interested in the property. Chuck is willing to give more tours this spring. Brent said Pepe does not want us to just purchase an easement; he does not want to hold ownership of the property.

6. Stream Naming- Ron is making a template (map) that would be presentable to the SB of all the streams the MCC could potentially rename in Town. In the spring we could drive around town to see the locations and hear the names as proposed.

7. Duhamel Property Gravel Pit- Ron thinks we should continue with reforestation on our own for now and that we should not wait until all the gravel is all extracted in the next extraction phase. Brent Raymond said that the Town would likely need an Act 250 permit or amendment to do reforestation. Brent Teillon is supposed to draft a reforestation plan and he will find out if an Act 250 amendment is needed for the site.

8. New MCC member-Nancy attended the meeting but given the time constraints the committee will wait until March to interview and decide on her membership. We are missing the second page of her resume. Jerry re-sent Nancy's resume to MCC members.

9. Committee sign-Brent looked into a 2×4 foot sign for committee tables/presentations etc. It would be plastic with grommets. He is getting an estimate. Hilary will work on a table top display.

10. Discussed above as NB 2. Ron feels we should include the Boy Scouts and suggested Jerry & Brent visit with them at one of their Sunday evening meetings. Jerry is to contact the Scout Master and arrange with Brent to attend the next meeting.

11. Ron received a response from Dr. Lundblad that he is not interested in selling the property; item closed.

12. Other-Ron is looking for someone to provide historical walks for the Town Forest and take over his role. He is willing to train someone. This would also apply to Bugbee Springs and possibly other areas of interest in Town. Ron received notification from Stowe Conservation

Commission that he will be named Stowe conservationist of the year at their meeting on March 24th. Add that Ron is offering MCC members an online training session to go into the state maps and look up contours, wetlands, parcels, etc. information about Morristown; this is where one can tabulate information. Ron stated that this is his last official meeting as an MCC member and that he will continue to attend as a guest from time to time.

Brent provided a summary of the adopt at trail program via email.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease, Secretary