

FEB 01 2016

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

Morristown Conservation Commission

December 17, 2015

Attendance: Steve Rae, Ron Stancliff, Dave Stevens, Dick Sargent, Brent Teillon, Jim Pease

Guest: Ed Loewenton

Meeting opened at 6:33 pm

November meeting minutes were lost.

No member reports.

Morristown Forest

Ron provided a map of the TF showing the historic sites and suggested trail improvements. The map was created with the Scouts. There are about 6 historic sites and an equal number of improvements including water bars, drainage, trail hardening etc. Ron also provided a title chain for each Lot associated with the forest (29, 48, 49, and 50). A discussion ensued about the best way to display all or some of this information. A kiosk, signs such as in the Stowe Town Forest and a brochure were discussed. We could have the scouts, the Lamoille Tech Ctr or the VYCC involved with one or more of these tasks. Stowe also did a Town Forest brochure which we could copy. The cost of any of these improvements could be up to \$5000. It was agreed that Dave will take a first look at the materials and try and consolidate them into a smaller brochure or foldable map.

Clark Park

Ed briefed us on the 300+ page hydro license application for the Morrisville dams and in particular the one associated with the Clark Park property. He noted that the MCC has been petitioning the Trustees to give the Town a lease for the property since at least 2013 based on Village Trustee minutes. Ed found that the relicensing minimum flow argument only involves the 150 feet of bypass below the main dam. He also understood that ANR is not willing to negotiate on the level of the release as it will be challenged by others in court. Ed also noted that the federal government also has a minimum flow requirement so it is not just a requirement of the state. He thought a decision would be made in 1-2 years and that we should start planning now for the future of Clark Park. Ed would like to get the community more involved and interested in the property. He has been talking with adjacent landowners and merchants of Clark Park and there is a great deal of positive interest in park development. Ed would like to go further in engaging the public in the park but the MCC is concerned that there could be an accident since there have been little or no improvements for public access or use made yet. It was suggested that Ed get in touch with former members of the Morristown Recreation Committee and review their plan for Clark Park. Ron will send it to him.

Black Bear Presentation

Dick reported that Ben Kilham would be willing to do a presentation in Morristown on Black Bear behavior. The cost would be about \$350. Dick will get in touch with PA about use of the school auditorium for the presentation. The presentation would likely be in late April or May.

Annual Report

Ron will have a draft by January 7 for members to review and comment on.

LCPC Regional Plan Trustee & Selectboard letter

Jim stated that he felt that the language in the regional plan was not that restrictive and that the past planning efforts of the Village sewer system by the Trustees were not planned but simply immediate crisis responses to business needs. There are a number of properties that are bypassed by the existing sewer and that are not hooked on. He stated that the more extensive and complicated the system becomes the more expensive it will be to maintain in the long run. The regional plan discusses infill and controlling strip development both of which he thought were good ideas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease
Secretary