

Morristown Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes-12/16/2010

Attending: Steve Rae, Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease (others?)

Meeting opened at 6:41 pm

Minutes of 11/11 meeting approved with amendments

Chair Report:

- (1) Selectboard approved the wetlands grant application and the use of \$1000 from the conservation fund in the grant.
- (2) Steve attended the working landscape workshop in Montpelier-the workshop attendees recommended raising 15 million dollars to fund various actions to improve the conservation of working landscapes. A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Jim, and then approved to pay for Steve's expenses to the workshop.
- (3) The Lamoille County Planning Commission received a federal grant to coordinate a regional forestry study that will produce guidelines for forest management in northern Vermont.
- (4) Lois Frey of the Johnson Conservation Commission gave Steve a notebook on the Johnson Municipal Forest that can be used as a template for Morristown's forest in Mud City.

New Business:

- (1) Ron attended and reported on a local energy meeting. There are no local partners interested in local energy generation but there are 5 utilities in the area. There was a lot of discussion about combining energy generation with heat users to take advantage of the cogeneration. Jim mentioned that the Intervale Wood Chip plant in Burlington was trying to do this with a partner that would use hot waste water in green houses for local food production.
- (2) The text of the MCC page in the Town Annual Report was discussed. Steve wrote the text which summarizes 2010 MCC activities. A motion was made by Jim, seconded by Ron, and then approved to accept the text as proposed.

Old Business:

- (1) Steve reported that the logger for the Town Forest came to the Select Board meeting and asked about the status of the Town Forest plan. Discussion occurred concerning the need for culverts before any logging occurred. The Select Board gave approval to Ray Toulon to estimate the culvert dimensions. Steve asked that logging not occur in the forest until the plan was completed. The expectation is that the plan would be ready in July-August 2011 and that logging could begin in the fall of 2011. Steve reported that Dan and MCC would come up with the RFP (request for proposals) for logging in the town forest.

- (2) Steve reported on the Prime Ag Land Fee Schedule Review Committee. He tried to recruit members from the Select Board; Dan will represent the Town. Other members include Todd Thomas, Charlie McArthur, Paul Griswold, Ron Stancliff and Steve. Morristown is the first town in the state to develop such a fee schedule and there is not a lot of pre-existing resources to work with.
- (3) Jim reported that he spoke with Kim Komer at the Lamoille NRCD about the new grant possibility for fencing cows out of Kenfield Brook on the Lamson Hill Farm. Kim told Jim that the NRCD was submitting a grant proposal to the Department of Agriculture and that she would include the farm as one of the possible projects to be funded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease, Treasurer (acting Secretary)