

Morristown Conservation Commission

12/15/11

Meeting opened at 6:35pm

Attending: Steve Rae, Richard Sargent, Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease

November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with several amendments.

Chair Report

Steve submitted the Town Forest road reclassification to the Selectboard (SB). The board cannot make a decision between Oct 15-May 1 but will reconsider the request in May.

Steve provided comments to the SB from the MCC on the Oxbow lower field. There is a mix of concerns about abandoning the lower field. Dan Lindley will work with the Lamoille County NRCD and Morristown Youth Soccer to figure out a solution.

Ron and Steve have done more field work in the Town Forest. VAST cleaned up the trees that were put in the cellar hole on TH#42.

Annual Report

Steve handed out the draft MCC page for the Town Report. A final draft was approved unanimously and will be sent to Erica Reed.

Town Forest Signage

Jim reported on a grant opportunity with the South Burlington sign firm "sign-a-rama". The MCC has applied for a full or partial grant to cover the cost of three signs indicating the location of the forest. One will be at the Beaver Meadow Trail parking lot, one at the BMT iron gate and one on the Bryant Pond Road. The MCC will provide \$100 in matching funds toward the signs purchase if needed. A motion was made and approved authorizing the \$100 expenditure.

Clark Park

The Trails Forum vision statement includes taking some action in Clark Park between the dam and the wastewater plant. Steve handed out a note from Todd Thomas indicating he would pursue a license with Morrisville W&L to use the park and to acquire an easement for the "purple path" from B Street to Bridge Street. The note indicates that MCC would be the trail stewards. A discussion on this proposal ensued. There was general consensus that we proceed slowly. Commission members will walk the property this winter. Steve believes we should contact MAC and the Recreation Committee and see if they want to get involved.

Town Forest Logging

Brent has told Steve he spoke with Dave Stephens the Tree Warden in town. Both went up to the Town Forest. Dave has a lot of forestry experience; his view is there is one good logging job that consists of multiple sites in the TF. Brent talked to Diana

Fredericks of the Dept of Forest, Parks and Recreation about a log landing on Bryant Pond Road on the former Zeisberg property. The site is an old log landing. The state may want to log this area eventually and may be interested in building a skid road. Dave Stephens suggested using a consulting forester, rather than Ray Toolan, to finish the Town Forest plan. Dave Stephens would be willing to come and talk to the MCC; Steve will try and get him on the agenda for January.

New Business

Ron suggested that the MCC look for ways to acquire funds to acquire the Sullivan property thereby joining all of the state and town land in one continuous area.

Old Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease