

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
December 15, 2005

Members Present: Gert Lepine, Steve Rae, Jim Pease, Kevin Lane

Members Absent: None

Guests: Amy Walker, Ashley Lucht

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the November 2005 minutes. Following review, Gert motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next was the review of the Annual Report. Steve distributed a draft which had been slightly revised (noting our expenditures and mentioning Ron Stancliff by name) during the previous month. Following review and discussion, this version was accepted for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Then came the report from the co-chair, with Steve offering the following:

- The petition seeking funding could not include the word "annually" as we had planned at the prior meeting. According to the Vermont Secretary of State, warned articles can only request funding for a given year.
- Steve met with Dave Crawford, Town Administrator, during the previous week. Dave feels it is appropriate to meet regularly with Commission Chairmen. In this specific meeting, Steve shared a copy of MCC's petition.
- The 1st Select Board meeting in January provides an opportunity to review budget requests – so it may be desirable for us to attend.
- Steve distributed a letter to the Town from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources confirming purchase of the land which provides access to Terrill Gorge.
- Ron reports that the closing for the Joe's Pond easement is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, 2005.

Next the commission welcomed Ashley Lucht, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Water Source Protection Specialist. Ashley was invited to the meeting to inform the Commission about the issue of "well head" protection – offering the following with respect to boundaries

- The boundaries are established by an environmental consultant (engineer or hydrologist).
- The State of Vermont is responsible for informing the public about changes in boundary etc.

Following her presentation, it was decided that it would be beneficial to:

- Contact Morrisville Water & Light to obtain copies of Management Plans for the "well heads" within town
- Contact the Zoning Administrator to learn about procedures for checking permit applications against "well head" zones

With respect to "well heads" and zoning, Ashley expressed interest in meeting with the Planning Commission to discuss the concept of an overlay district for Groundwater Protection.

The Commission then reviewed progress on its petition drive – with early lists showing that we're about 50% of the way toward our goal. Steve reminded commissioners of the need to complete the job by year's end.

Next on the agenda was "public relations" for the following:

- Joe's Pond Conservation – With closing scheduled for 12/20/05, it was decided that publicizing the event would be appropriate – particularly given Ron's desire to have his thoughts about the land made known. The Stowe Reporter plans to cover the closing and Steve will contact Amy Noyes to see if the News & Citizen will report on it as well. Commissioners may forward any thoughts they have about content to Steve for consideration.
- Terrill Gorge – The concept of thanking those responsible for acquiring and accessing the land by which Terrill Gorge is accessed was discussed. Kevin volunteered to draft a letter to the editor of the News & Citizen on behalf of the Commission and forward it to Steve for review / comment prior to publication.

The commission then discussed its membership. Steve had yet to write the letter to the Selectboard informing them of John Lepinski's resignation and motioned that the letter include "a recommendation that Amy Walker be appointed to the Conservation Commission". Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

In terms of "old business", Jim said he'd check with Jim Ryan about the status of the fishing access to Lake Lamoille (at the corner of Bridge Street and Cadys Falls Road)

For new business, Kevin informed the commission about a recent conversation he had had with Don Avery. Don would like to see a wetland near Joe's Pond conserved. Don is currently working with the Nature Conservancy on this and would like Gert to visit the landowner to discuss the possibility of conserving the land.

At 8:36 PM, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gert seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane