

Morristown Conservation Commission

November 18, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Town Offices.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Richard Sargent, Brent Teillon
Jennifer Andrews, Dave Stevens, Jess Zehngut, Kristen Connelly.

Guests: None

A motion was made for to revise the October meeting minutes and to attach the priority discussion points. There was no treasurer's report. Meeting minutes will be reviewed 10 days after they are sent or revised by the Chair at the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. **Bryan Pond Parking Lot** – Brent has been talking to the Selectboard about the parking lot. He will get an estimate from a contractor for the total cost and then share it with the board to see what items the Town Road Crew could do. We may be able to avoid the bidding process or reduce the project size for a contractor. The SB will look at the estimate on December 9.
2. **Petition** – Brent asked Eric Dodge about the petition and he said to talk to Tina Sweet about putting the dollar request for MCC operation funds in the budget. It was understood that we were looking to raise \$35,000 for land conservation purposes. The ½ penny fee on the grand list is on the SB agenda for December 9. If a petition to the SB is necessary it must be submitted by mid-January. Bob Beaman did say that there are some available funds in the Town Reserve Fund that the SB could earmark for conservation purposes. The group agreed that immediate operation costs would be \$2000- GreenUp, \$1600-Trail signage, \$600-Trail Maintenance and \$200-Survey-Mapping, which totals \$2400.
3. **Potash Brook Committee** – consists of Dick, Brent, Jess. The Wilders bought the house on the brook. They want to do some type of conservation of the land along the brook; the committee should explore options with them. The committee should also investigate stream buffer zoning with the Town.
4. **Demars Trail** – Ron handed a tax map showing the trail and he has been talking with the Family Center about the trail. The best option might be to look at a land swap between the Village and the Family Center to get public ownership of the trail.
5. **Sullivan Land** – Ron sent an email to Sullivan but he did not reply. The parcel is under contract with an interested buyer and it looks like it will be sold. The owner needs to talk to the Town about getting the combination to the gate.
6. **Digital document archive** – no action on this item yet.
7. **Town Plan** – the steep slope language was included in the draft Town Plan although not verbatim.
8. **Koper Property** - will have some subdivided lots but the forest land should have a conservation easement with the New England Forest Foundation.

New Business:

1. **Demars Land Trails** – Ron handed out a map of trails that Sonny Demars has built on his two properties (lot 25, 26) off Mansfield and Farr Ave and that extend through to Randolph Rd. The

trails are accessible from Copley Hospital. They would meet Denise Ashman's request for more trails in the area for her Behavior and Wellness clients. Sonny said it is okay for the public to use the trails. Copley employees could also use them. Ron suggested that the land could be a park if it and provide Sonny some relief on property taxes. If the property were converted to a park it would need to be surveyed.

2. **Trail crew** – Jim received a request from Dusty May at Northwoods Conservation Corp about hiring a trail crew for next summer. At this point the MCC is not interested in hiring a crew and plans to do the work itself. Jim will notify them.
3. **Town Conservation Lands** – we could have a public meeting to identify important areas of the Town to conserve. Kristen could talk to Jens Hilke about this. We could use the Town Meeting MCC table to promote this idea and the ½ cent assessment.
4. **Duhamel property** – There has been some discussion with the Town Rec Committee about the Act 250 permit conditions of this property including recreation and the amount of land to be used for gravel extraction purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary