

Morristown Conservation Commission

November 18, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:35 pm. Meeting was held via Zoom on-line.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Richard Sargent, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon, Jennifer Andrews

Guests: Denise Ashman, Ben Sklarski

Guest Presentation: Denise and Ben are from the Behavior Health and Wellness Program at 607 Washington Highway in Morrisville. They work with people with a wide variety of mental health issues. They also have a subgroup working with youth and practice nature-based therapy, substance abuse training. They would like permission to take groups on Town Land that are close to their offices. There is the Greaves property of 4 acres that is close by but not suitable yet for use. Members suggested Joes Pond on Stancliff Rd. and the Town Forest.

The October 20th meeting minutes were approved.

New Member:

Jennifer Andrews joined the MCC. She has experience on the Bolton CC and the Elmore CC.

Old Business:

1. Demars Trail – Sonny Demars has a trail on his property that connects with the Bishop Marshall Trail and extends to Bridge St. Ron has sent a map and a letter about the trail to the landowners. We would like to get a permanent easement for the trail. We have only heard back from Bishop Marshall who will discuss it and respond to us in December. If we get easements, we will need to discuss parking and signage issues.
2. Town Forest – We reviewed the letter from Tim Sullivan that Brent shared. The TF trees will be tapped but no equipment other than taps and lines will be installed on TF land. He offered possible use of his 53-acre town land and his 200-acre Johnson land for recreational trail usage. The commission decided we need to reinform the Town Manager and the Select-Board that our decision was final. Brent will write a letter.

New Business

1. Mollys Pond/Bog – Ron sent two maps to review. Ron talked with Tom Paine about access to the pond/bog. There is a legal ROW to the pond/bog that would need parking access possibly under the power line ROW. Dick was under the impression we should not encourage use of the area because it is a fragile natural area. It was agreed we would not take any action.
2. Clark Park – there has been no change in the status of the property and will not be until the FCC license for the dam is approved. The proposed Eagle Scout project could be a written “plan of possibilities” for the park. Eric Brown is a descendant of George Clark who gave the land to the Town for a Park.

3. Town Forest Boundary - the town forest boundary needs to be reblazed and painted. Kristen asked the PA Athletic Director if we could get volunteers in the spring. We could blaze the boundary now and have them paint it in the spring.
4. Petition for Conservation – Ron produced two petitions for conservation funds. We need at least 200 signatures of residents on the petition by mid-January in order that it get into the Town Report. A half cent/\$ of grand list would raise about \$31,000. We need to start the petition in mid-December. Dick said we should change the petition to say one-half cent. Jennifer pointed out that this item was on the agenda in Bolton every year; she would be happy to work on the petition. Jim made a motion to approve the petition request for one-half cent per dollar of grand list. Dick seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Town Forest Trail Map - the Town Forest map needs to be updated with the trail names. Kristen thinks we should have a map done to scale. Kristen, Dave, and Jennifer will form a committee to work on the map.
6. We still have two vacancies on the Commission. Sue Grimes might be interested.
7. We need to make a map of all the small, conserved lands in Town. We could propose this as a use for the funds at Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary