

Morristown Conservation Commission
11/17/2011

Members attending: Steve Rae, Dick Sargent, Ron Stancliff,
Brent Teillon, Jim Pease

Meeting opened at 6:32 pm

October meeting minutes were adopted.

Chair Report

Steve and Jim attended the Climate Change Workshop at PA. Steve invited one of the presenters of the workshop to visit the Town Forest and to consider it as part of a public walk.

VAST has cut several trees around one of the root cellars in the TF and dumped the trees in the cellar hole. They have also removed a beaver dam. This is all contrary to directions given them when they met with the MCC in the fall. Steve will contact VAST and request that they remedy the damages. Steve walked the TF with the logger Doug Small. No decisions were made. Ray Toolan is still not done with the forest inventory.

Green-Up Vermont is looking for information on local tire dumps. If anyone knows of one they would like to know about it. Brent mentioned one exists on the Zack Woods Pond Road. Steve handed out a Trails Forum Group vision statement.

The Planning Commission received a letter sent to the Village regarding the Act 250 permit for the wastewater plant/sewer service area. The letter was in response to a letter sent by the Village requesting relief from one of the permit requirements. The Act 250 district commission asked several questions about

zoning changes that have been made by the Town. MCC is supposed to be advised on any new development permitted on prime agricultural soils.

Town Forest Discussion

Dick suggested visiting Doug Small's previous logging jobs to see how they were done.

Steve proposed recommending to the Select Board that parts of TF roads be reclassified from Class 4 to Trails.

Dan Lindley is supportive of this. This would include all of Town Highway #42 and the east side of Town Highway #43. A motion was made, approved and passed unanimously supporting this recommendation.

A general discussion about logging contracts ensued. Brent will contact Doug Small and follow-up on Dick's suggestion.

Oxbow Park Discussion

Dan Lindley has asked the MCC for their input on what to do about the park trails

and whether they should be repaired given their almost annual maintenance needs due to flooding damage. One suggestion involves abandoning the lower tier

soccer-recreation grass field and letting it return to a more natural vegetated state.

The current maintained state is a mowed lawn. This year maintenance involved removal of considerable flood debris, sand and rocks that as well as revegetation of eroded areas. The Commission agreed that increasing the buffer along the river was important. The Commission had mixed feelings about abandoning the lower tier field

from its current use.

Other Business

A general discussion of the TF survey activities ensued. Ron has completed a resurvey of the TF line with help from the Morristown boy scouts. Jim mentioned that the State has installed a new sign at the Beaver Meadow Road trail head and it might be worth exploring the possibility of a trail sign grant to install a TF sign with this new state sign.

Old Business-none

New Businss-none

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Jim Pease
Secretary