

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
November 17, 2005

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Amy Walker, Deb Wickart

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the October 2005 minutes. Following review, Gert motioned that the minutes be accepted as corrected (for syntax). Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

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

- Steve attended the November 2 Select Board meeting to get a sense of the Town's willingness to hold title on the Kenfield Brook / Terrill Gorge property should the State be unwilling to accept the necessary easements. Following discussion, the Select Board indicated that they were, in principle, willing to do so.
- At the same Select Board meeting, the Select Board approved an expenditure of \$250 from the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund to the Vermont River Conservancy for the purchase of the Kenfield Brook / Terrill Gorge access property.
- The Town has agreed to accept the survey for Tim Sullivan's property (which borders the Town Forest).
- Jeff Meyers, Executive Director of VRC, reports that the State of Vermont will likely be willing to hold title on the Kenfield Brook / Terrill Gorge access property (with the necessary easements).

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the letter regarding John Lepinski's resignation from the commission. Steve offered to write and submit the letter to the Select Board (informing them of John's decision and thanking John for his service to the community) and Commission accepted this offer.

Next, the Commission heard from Deb Wickart – owner of land on the northern end Stagecoach Road near a parcel of land for which a subdivision permit was recently granted. Deb is appealing this permit in the State of Vermont Environmental Court. She read aloud a copy of the letter she has sent to the Court. Then discussion ensued, covering issues such as legal standing, the basis for an appeal, and other options for preventing development of the land.

The Commission then discussed funding.

- Steve had drafted a petition requesting that an article to fund the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund be warned for the 2006 Town Meeting. This document was distributed, reviewed and discussed. Discussion focused on whether or not the request should be for an annual appropriation. Following

discussion, Kevin motioned that the warning be amended such that "the Town appropriate the sum of \$17,000 annually". Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. Steve will change the document and distribute copies for signature.

- Amy suggested that we publicize our efforts regarding this matter in the News & Citizen.
- Regarding funding for on-going operations – Steve filed a letter requesting that the Commission be level-funded during the upcoming year.

The commission then discussed zoning. Prior to this meeting, Kevin had read those portions of Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Subdivision and compiled a list of items whose subject is addressed by the Commission's Bylaws. This list was distributed, reviewed, and discussed.

At 9:02, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane