

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
November 15, 2007

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

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

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the October 2007 meeting. Following review, Gert motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Then Steve reported on lands in the Beaver Meadow vicinity. The State has agreed to acquire the Heath property after the cabin has been removed. The State's Land Acquisition Review Committee (LARC) did not recommend acquisition of the Sullivan property because of its high price (but they are willing to reconsider this parcel in the future). Following discussion, it was agreed that the Commission is willing to assume responsibility for removing the cabin. (It is assumed that the cabin can be burned after materials such as roofing, insulation, etc are removed). Gert will contact Anne Heath to see if she wants to be involved in the cabin removal process. Steve will contact Kate Willard to let her know that the Commission will oversee removal of the cabin and learn about the State's timeframe.

Next was the review of the September 2007 minutes (which were not available at the October meeting due to the secretary's absence). Following review, Amy motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

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

- Wetland Conditional Use Determinations processed by the State's Agency of Natural Resources - The Commission wrote to Shannon Morrison, the State District Wetlands Ecologist, asking that we be notified of applications pertaining to Morristown properties. While no direct response has been received, she did let Jim know that, due to the fullness of her schedule, it may not be always be possible to coordinate with the Commission. Jim will let her know that we understand the challenge of her schedule and simply want to be notified so that we may participate in the process as appropriate.
- Town Plan Update - At a recent Planning Commission (PC) meeting, with the Conservation Commission's support, Amy presented a proposal for a Mud City district. The PC also discussed a Route 100 district, and Mike Miller presented a map proposing a Forest Preservation District (Lands about 1,500 feet). The PC scheduled an 11/28 meeting with the Select Board to ensure that both bodies are "on the same page" regarding changing zoning districts in accord with sewer expansion.

- Dave Crawford has indicated that he sees value in the Rail Trail. Steve will contact Heidi Krantz to see if there is anything the Commission can do to support this initiative.
- The town has updated its website – adding a page for the Commission that includes members, terms, and meeting schedule.
- Steve recently completed his review of the Joe's Pond property as steward to the Stowe Land Trust.

Then the Commission discussed the Town Plan update. Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- Steve would draft a letter to the PC asking for feedback. Thus far, the Commission has offered substantial input (suggestions on "vision", a proposal for a Mud City District, volunteering to partner in the planning process, etc) but has received no feedback / response.
- The Commission will attend the 11/28 meeting with Kevin prepared to present his summary of the survey

Next on the agenda was Clark Park. Jim arranged for a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) corps to perform work on the site. Thus far, they have installed signage and built a bridge that allows access to the lookout.

For old business:

- Amy gave a recap for the Ag subcommittee. They have adopted a rating system to help inventory farms and are discussing a year-round farmer's market.
- Jim noted that the land adjacent to Molly's Bog is still for sale and that site work is being performed on the land near Lake Lamoille.

For new business, Amy reported that VECAN (Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network) has recently published a directory of participants which she will maintain in the Commission's file.

At 8:45, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane