

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
November 6, 2008

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

Members Absent: None

Guest: Richard Sargent

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

The first order of business was the review of minutes from the October 2008 meeting. Following review, Jim motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the report from the co-chair – with Steve reporting:

- Green-Up Day – We received a letter from the state recapping the prior year's campaign.
- Lamoille River Basin Planning – VT Agency of Natural Resources will hold a public forum on 11/16 to review its management plan for the basin and obtain public comment upon it. Jim will try to attend.
- Planning Commission (PC) – At the last meeting, the PC continued discussion of the Sewer Service Marketing Area and drafted bylaws naming the Conservation Commission Fund as the recipient of funds generated by the development of land containing prime agricultural soils.
- Membership – Richard Sargent wrote a letter to the Select Board expressing his interest in membership on the Conservation Commission.

Next, on the agenda was the Big Tree Contest. Steve and Gert will go out Saturday to deliver prizes. Jim will draft an article for the *News & Citizen*. Additionally, he will contact Dave Stevens, Town Tree Warden, to let him know that some of the trees entered in this contest may be threatened by upcoming projects (the Cottonwood by the Bridge Street bridge replacement and the Langdell Farm Silver Maples by Route 15 development).

Then the Commission continued its discussion of zoning-related issues – reviewing and discussing the "position statement" on zoning bylaw amendments being discussed and drafted. Steve distributed a revised draft which expanded upon and refined the draft Kevin provided at last month's meeting. Following review and discussion, it was agreed that Kevin would incorporate changes agreed upon during this meeting for review and approval at the next meeting. Further, it was agreed that we'd send the document to the PC, LCPC, and Morristown Alliance for Culture and Commerce (MACC).

Next the Commission reviewed and discussed the document titled "Criteria for use of the Morristown Commission Conservation Fund" - drafted in October 2004. Following

discussion, Steve motioned that we "adopt the guidelines with the agreed upon amendments". Kevin seconded this motion – which passed unanimously.

For old business, Steve reported that the PC had discussed protective measures for prime agricultural land such that disruption of a 10 acre parcel would require some type of mitigation – such as preservation, payment, or a planned usage division.

For new business, Steve noted the importance of maintaining strong membership (on the Commission.). The commission will send a letter to the Select Board nominating Richard Sargent for membership. Additionally, Steve will contact Billy Coster to see if he is interested in returning.

At 8:07, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane