

Morristown Conservation Commission

October 21, 2020

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Dave Stevens, Richard Sargent, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon

August 2020 and September 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

1. Demars trail proposal- Ron and Brent met with Floyd Nease at the Lamoille Family Ctr. Floyd talk to his board of directors; the board would be interested in approving the trail Sonny Demars proposed although a lease for use of the land was also possible. There are trails all over the 4 properties (Demars, Marshall, Family Ctr, Village). Brent wants to know exactly what Sonny Demars is proposing. We should talk to the Family Ctr about what the lease fee would be. Kristin wanted to know if there was an agreement with the Village for the existing trails already. A motion was made by Brent and seconded by Kristin: Does MCC want to be involved with the trail proposal? The motion passed unanimously.
2. Bugbee Springs-Ron is going to reblaze/repaint the property line tomorrow.
3. Clark Park-Ron received an email from Penny that we will have to wait until the federal dam license is approved before the land could be transferred to the Town. Jim, Brent and Dick recall that we were told previously that we did not have to wait for the license.
4. Stowe Land Trust provided funds for a dock at Joes Pond. Ron and his son installed the dock.
5. Lake Lamoille Trails-the trails at the old ice rink property are not being maintained as required by the original zoning decision. Dick will send a letter to call this to the attention of the owner (Hirschak).
6. Keeping Track-any future presentations from Sue Morse will have to wait until 2021. Ron sent a \$25 donation for MCC.
7. Geocache-Cindy Gray will be contacting MCC about setting up a geocache in the Town Forest.

New Business

1. Tim Sullivan notified Dan Lindley that he would like to set up maple sugaring equipment on the Town Forest. Gary Nolan referred him to us. He would pay for tapping privileges near the VAST trail. He would also use state line to access the Town Forest property. Fran Sladyk told Brent he did not think it was a good idea and the State Forester would not allow him to tap state land trees due to damage to the trees. The equipment would likely be visible and might conflict with the bike trail Brent is building in that area. It is estimated that the fee would be about \$1.50/tap for about 2500 taps. It would be a 15-20-year lease starting in 2 years. A motion was made by Kristin: Do we agree with

Sullivan's request to run taplines to the Town Forest for consideration of a tapping fee lease with the Town? The motion was defeated unanimously.

2. The Town Forest Interior Trail bridge and corduroy for two muddy areas was completed on Saturday.
3. \$10,000 was transferred from a CD to the MCC checking account. These funds may be needed for a Town Forest Parking Lot off of Bryant Pond Rd. The parking lot could be on state land as a cooperative project with a state logging job. We need to prepare a preproposal for approval by the State Lands Stewardship Committee. A second final design would need to be submitted if the preproposal is approved. A motion was made by Ron: Dave and Ron should explore options for establishing a parking lot off of Bryant Pond Rd. The motion passed unanimously.
4. The article Kristin wrote for the News & Citizen was not published. She will try another subject.
5. The MCC has agreed to conduct monthly meetings with Zoom only if we must go into quarantine.
6. The Sugar Maple tree was replanted at the Town Library.
7. Denise Ashmond, who leads a nature therapeutic group, want to come November 18 to discuss the possibility of leading groups on walks in the Town Forest.
8. Jim brought up the concern from Mud City residents (4 who came on Saturday) about the Select board's approval of ATV's on Mud City Loop next spring. The group's opinion is that there are no ATV trails in the Mud City region so the only use would be to access Mud City Loop. A motion was made by Brent: We recommend to the Select board that they do not permit ATVs on the Mud City Loop Rd. The motion passed unanimously. That recommendation should be sent to Dan Lindley.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary