

Morristown Conservation Commission

October 20, 2022

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Kristen Connelly, Dave Stevens, Jess Zehngut, Dick Sargent, Brent Teillon, Jim Pease, Mariah Keagy (on-line)

Members Absent: Jennifer Andrews

Guests: Fran Sladyk, Trish Follert, Martha Battle, Staci Heur, Kari Anderson, Leslie Opling er

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 6:30

The September meeting minutes were approved with some corrections.

Old Business:

1. Tree Inventory for Village – Ron presented Chip Horton's 2004 Inventory and the 1998 Inventory by Paul Trudell was also mentioned. Fran is the Town Tree Warden and Trish is here for the MACC board who has also been involved with tree planting in the Village. Fran is not a licensed arborist but knows a lot about trees and is employed by Butternut Mt Farm. MACC does have tree specifications for planting which Trish will share with Fran. The Village does not have a master tree plan. MACC's goal is to increase the Village greenery. When opportunities arise, MACC gets involved such as the Copley Parking Lot. MACC has over \$500 in their tree fund. MACC put in 4 trees from Richmond St down Park St., they are Honey Locust. They also have planted memory trees around the Village. According to the Horton inventory Sugar Maple, Crab Apple and Red Maple dominate the village. Next steps- Fran and will create a map of the Village Trees, Ron will take the old plans and MCC will look at updating the old plans with the new maps. Fran and Trish will organize a walk of the Village streets this fall. We need to ask MACC to increase their tree budget to \$1000. It would be best to house all the tree funds under MACC and not with the Town. We should include adjacent nonpublic ROW "community trees" in the inventory as discussed in the plans. The Town of Johnson has a very active tree board and would be a good resource. We should focus initially on the Village limits but ultimately include the North End and other areas outside of the Village. Should MCC provide funding assistance for this effort?

2. MCC member recruitment - there were 3 people attending the meeting that are interested in joining the MCC board: Martha Battle, Kari Anderson, Leslie Opling. Each one introduced themselves. Martha is already on the MACC board. Ron handed out copies of the MCC bylaws. At the November meeting we will meet to decide who joins.

3. Town Forest Parking Lot - Eric has been busy and little progress has happened. Dave and Brent will meet with Eric this week to get the bid proposal out soon.

4. Community Value Mapping – Kristen and Moriah presented on the mapping progress to date. They are not ready to give a presentation and are analyzing the data collection which is complete. Residents value the Town's natural resources, water quality and the Kenfield Brook (Mud City) area. The next step is to map out the values; and then compare those sites to the ANR sensitive areas. This will take some time. The results should help us focus on particular areas of town for land conservation. They would like to present in November or December.

4. Kiosk Update – Jess updated the situation with the Beaver Meadow parking lot kiosk. There will be two kiosks, one large one small. She has not met with Walter O. yet about funding for the kiosks. The smaller town kiosk will have 4 panels one panel with a TF map but Walter has not approved that design yet. For the other panels Jess will send out text for members comments. Staci asked if there will be any mention of native Americans and handed out a copy of a statement about Indian Joe but the committee felt that the TF land did not have resident native Americans.

5. Sue Morse Talk – Brent stated that the Sue Morse talk was still on for this winter but we still do not have permission to use the auditorium at PA. He will talk to them later this month.

6. Other – Brent mentioned that there was a N&C article about volunteers working on the TF trails. There will be one more field day to do bridge work on the Brook Trail; a tentative date is October 29th. We also need to get volunteers to move the boards to the site from Bryant Pond Rd and Beaver Meadow Rd.

Kirsten mentioned that the book club will start on November 18th at 6 pm. with Leah Tonino's book "The animal a thousand miles long". Leah will zoom into the meeting. Interested people should read the book and then participate in the discussion at the meeting.

Brent mentioned that on October 24th the state ecologist will walk the TF trails. They will meet at 9 am in the Beaver Meadow parking lot.

Ron reported that Sharon Greaves did not have a permit for the stump dump on the Greaves Farm on Washington Highway.

New Business:

1. There will be a Planning Council meeting on October 27th on the proposed zoning changes. Ron will likely comment but not as a MCC member.
2. There is a new 20-acre conservation easement in a subdivision on Rte. 100. Land of the subdivision abuts Molly Bog and Ryder Brook. MCC has not been asked to manage it.
3. There is a proposed subdivision adjacent to the Town Wellhead property and the Lamoille Rail Trail on Rte. 15A. The property is proposed to be a Christmas tree farm but the owner is allowed to build one house on the lot.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectively submitted, Jim Pease, Secretary.