Mary Ann Wilson

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Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2003 12:40 PM
Subject: Conservation Commission October 2003 Minutes

Morristown Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes for

October 16, 2003

Members Present: Billy Coster , Kevin Lane, Gert Lepine, John Lepinski, Jim Pease, Steve Rae

Members Absent: None

Guests: Chuck Mitchell

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

The first order of business was the review of the September 2003 minutes. After review and discussion, Gert motioned that they be accepted as written. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. (This vote excluded Billy, who had yet to arrive.)

Next, Steve distributed a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Following review and discussion, Steve motioned that we accept the proposed budget. Kevin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (again, with Billy absent for this portion of the meeting)

Steve shared with the Commission a package we've received from Michelle Swift which contains her notes/plans for conducting Green-up Day and noted that we'll soon need to identify an individual who is will to manage the Green-up Day effort.

Next, Chuck Mitchell (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service) , discussed the potential Streambank Stabilization Project. At the town's request, he recently walked the bank of the Lamoille at the Oxbow with Dwight Denton - noting:

- Substantial erosion along the bank (boat launch to the Oxbow's tip in particular) over the 5-10 years
- The existence of a wetland, the existence of the dam, and the width of the river which increase the difficulty of the stabilization effort

- The lack of healthy trees (which contributes to the erosion)

Due to the size of the project (an estimated 2 - 3 years) and his current workload, Chuck feels it would be best to "partner" with the town - sharing, money, materials, equipment, expertise, etc. The Commission will discuss the project at an upcoming meeting. Jim will do some preliminary research to inform the Commission on the matter.

Next the Commission discussed the general matter of "appropriate use of Commission reports". While no general policy was formulated / adopted, the following was offered:

- The Stowe Conservation Commission has no real policy which may offer a model for us. Typically, their reports just go to the Stowe Selectboard.

- Our reports should go to individuals / organizations who we consider to be "receptive"
- Distribution needs to be consistent with our "advisory" capacity (vs a "regulatory" capacity)

This issue will continue to be discussed in future meetings.

Then the Commission turned its attention to the upcoming Town Forum. Steve distributed for review and discussion the materials which result from the Town Forum Subcommittee's efforts as well as Steve's on-going effort in conjunction with Mike Stafford, chair of the Morristown Trails Committee. The printed material included the "flow" (format/agenda) of the forum, introductory materials (History / Mission Statement / Contact information), and the questionnaire. Following careful review and discussion of these materials in detail, the Commission concluded that it is well prepared for the event. All members of the Commission indicated there expectation that they would attend and participate in the forum on Oct. 28th.

Next, the Commission discussed ongoing efforts regarding Zoning. Billy has begun gathering material from other municipalities / organizations to guide the effort. And a Subcommittee (Billy, Steve, and Kevin) was formed.

Steve offered the Commission the opportunity to discuss "any old business" and there were no "takers".

With respect to an offer to discuss "any new business", it was noted that the Transcript contained an article noting the existence of Grant money available to support trail-related initiatives and the Commission decided that it will discuss the matter at its next meeting.

At 8:22 PM, John motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Kevin seconded this motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane