

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
September 21, 2006

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

Members Absent: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the August 2006 minutes. Following review, Gert motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (with Jim abstaining because he did not attend the August meeting and Amy not voting due to tardiness)

Then came the report from the co-chair, with Gert offering the following:

- Deb Wickart informed her that the Development Review Board (DRB) met in a "closed session" to discuss the application for subdivision on the Stagecoach Road and she (Deb) has yet to be informed of any decision.
- No word from the Stowe Land Trust (SLT) regarding the Struhsacker's. However, Heather Furman, SLT Executive Director, expressed her interest in Morristown projects while noting that it would be helpful if the Town Plan provided more specific direction on land usage (perhaps establishing goals for percentage of land that remain in agricultural use, conserved land, etc)

Steve offered the following:

- He noted that the Lamoille Anglers had done some clean-up on the Lamoille River and that we should keep in mind the potential to partner with this group on projects of mutual interest.
- A Johnson group is coordinating an event in which tires will be collected to prevent litter and raise money for charitable purpose. Tires with adequate tread will be accepted free of charge and sold with the proceeds going to charity. Individuals dropping off tires without adequate tread will be charged \$4 per tire.
- He distributed a draft document which included the summary of findings from the Commission's May survey and Kevin's report of the August 14 meeting co-hosted by the Select Board and Planning Commission to "kick-off" the Town Plan update process. After review and discussion, it was decided that we'd send the document to survey respondents after Kevin completes his report on the August 14th meeting.

Next, the Commission discussed the Terrill Gorge path clean-up project. Jim reported that he is working to obtain approval from the State. If he does not hear from the State within a week, Steve will contact Diana Fredrick (Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation).

The Commission then discussed the Friends of the Worcester Range Fall Celebration.

- Bill Rossmassler has presented Steve with a list of potential speakers and Steve has indicated his personal preference.

- The Commission decided that the October 14th date was preferred over the September 30th date – given the tight timeframe
- Jim Pease will contact the State to see if the Elmore Park will be available on that date. Another potential location for the event is the Morrisville Water & Light building.
- Amy presented information on earth friendly tableware, etc. Following discussion it was decided that we'd use re-usable & recyclable materials (that in many cases Commission members already own) and have a well-organized system in place for ensuring these materials are recycled.
- Amy will provide pies, sap buckets (decoration & recycling), and a welcome sign ; Gert – beverages ; Steve – salad & name tags; Kevin – Chips & dips ; Jim – Fruit

Next on the agenda was Amy's request to understand whether the Commission feels it is important to demonstrate earth-friendliness and to understand the Commission's decision-making process. With respect to the issue of earth-friendliness, all members felt it is an important and appropriate goal. However, it was noted that there are many ways in which this goal can be supported / achieved – such as bio-degradable items, recyclable materials, and/or re-use of items that may otherwise be destined for the landfill. As far as the decision-making process is concerned, the Commission makes its decisions at publicly-warned, open meetings, via majority vote following discussion of formally motioned proposals. Amy then discussed her efforts in helping to organize an "eco party" – an educational event on earth-friendly choices and a showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" to be held at Puffer Methodist Church on October 5, 2006. At the August meeting, she broached the issue of having the Commission be an official co-host of the event - however, no decision was made. At this meeting Amy motioned that "the Commission officially co-host the portion of this event offering information on earth-friendly choices and allow use of its naming in the solicitation of donations for the event". Gert seconded this motion – which passed 4-1 following discussion.

For "old business"

- Amy noted that an individual who may be interested in working with the Commission was unable to attend this meeting because of an out-of-town commitment.
- Jim informed the Commission that there was an upcoming hearing before the DRB on an application for a 2 story commercial / industrial building in his neighborhood.

For "new business", Amy asked for and received permission to have the Commission's sign-up sheet on the table at the October 5 "eco party". Also, Steve said he would send an invitation, via email, to the "eco party" to those already on the Commission's sign-up sheet.

At 8:51 PM, Amy motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane