

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
September 20, 2007

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

Members Absent: Jim Pease

Guests: None

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

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the August 2007 meeting. Following review, Amy motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Then came the report from the co-chair. Gert reported that August 2007 edition of "The Oaklog", a publication of The Nature Conservancy, contained an article on Morristown Bog.

Steve's report included the following:

- Town Plan Update – Amy, Steve and Kevin attended the Planning Commission's (PC) 9/19 meeting. A large number of people turned out to express their opinion on the 3 very leading questions authored to guide discussion.
- Clark Park – Village Trustees are supportive of a park with trail and picnic area. Steve will visit the site tomorrow with Craig Myott (of Water and Light).
- Stowe Land Trust (SLT) – Heather Furman, Executive Director of SLT, has published a list of people who will serve as stewards. The list includes Steve, Amy, John Lepinski and Don Avery.
- Ancient Roads – The list of individuals who will assist the Select Board has been finalized and includes Dick Sargent, Dave Pelletier (LCPC Transportation Planner), John Meyer (PC), Bob Melfy (Highway Department), Steve and Kevin.
- Sullivan and Heath Properties – Kate Willard's assistant indicated that the decision to purchase the Sullivan property has been forwarded to the Land Review Acquisitions Committee.
- Association of Vermont Conservation Commission – The annual meeting is scheduled for 10/27. Kevin will attend.

Then came the report from the Planning Commission sub-committee – a discussion fueled by the following:

- Steve distributed for discussion an analysis prepared by Kevin which analyzed 2 open-ended questions from the PC's survey "What do you like most about the town?" and "What threats jeopardize the Town's future"?
- Steve had prepared some thoughts on policies the town should adopt based on the sentiments expressed by those who completed the PC's Survey. Steve shared these items with Dave Crawford, Town Administrator, who indicated that we're doing very important work.

Also, Steve distributed a draft letter from the Commission to the PC requesting that the the Conservation Commission be explicitly be listed as an official participant for

implementation of a couple specific items. The letter also expresses the Commission's desire to support the on-going Town Plan update process. Following review, Kevin motioned that we "approve the letter as written with the addition of an item covering stream buffers". Amy seconded the motion – which passed unanimously following discussion.

Next on the agenda was the matter of signage for the Duhamel property. Dave Crawford supports the Town's installation of signage communicating the Town's usage policies for this property. Kevin will work with Hank Glowiak (Chuck's Bikes) to propose verbiage and locations.

Then came the issue of Class 2 Wetlands. The Commission has received notice of 2 applications for development that would impact Class 2 Wetlands. Steve wanted to learn about the State's policy regarding impact mitigation – but Shannon, our point of contact, was unavailable due to vacation.

For old business, Amy reported that a group met on 9/14 to continue the Town Forest inventory:

- The inventory is now about 30% complete
- Ray Toolan, county forester, says its one of the nicest town forests he has ever seen
- Dave Stevens, Town Tree Warden, was among the participants
- The group may get out once more this year

For new business, Amy reported that she had seen a notice in *The Transcript* in which a local resident had applied to the State Agency of Natural Resources for a permit to put an aquatic weed control chemical (Rodeo) in his pond. The notice encouraged individuals to contact the State with questions or concerns regarding this application. Amy wrote to ask what the State knows about how this chemical impacts the local honeybee population.

At 7:55, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane