

Morristown Conservation Commission

September 19, 2018, 6:30pm

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Dave Stevens, Kristen Connelly, Jim Pease,

Guests: Peter Danforth, Rachel Baur, Ken Brown, Matt Williams, Rachel Fussell, Patrick Pfeifer, Breck Knauft and DJ Masi

New Business:

A special meeting was held to discuss the possibility of a Community Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crew in Morristown/Lamoille County. Below are the minutes of that meeting as kept by Matt Williams.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectively submitted, Jim Pease, Secretary

Brief Introduction period/overview

VYCC: Breck Knauft-Executive Director

Patrick Pfeifer-Conservation Program Director

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) works on projects in the community with youth comprising the teams. Youth gains skills and values that can help them transition from adolescence to adulthood. VYCC work with many partners to create these experiences for youth. Projects range from working on water quality, invasive species removal and agriculture. Projects are based on the community need. The projects connect youth to the landscape.

VYCC is a job opportunity for youth. The participants earn a paycheck and that helps incentivize them to maintain high standards of work. These opportunities help with pre-employment skill development such as: punctuality, engaging in challenging conversations, leadership training and others. VYCC has around 25 staff and typically 270 youth participants in a given summer season.

VYCC has a three-million-dollar operating budget with two thirds of the budget coming from a fee-for-service structure. The other third comes from philanthropy grants.

Storm Water Master Plan work (projects that are prioritized and shovel ready)
VYCC has experience with class 4 roads, splash pads, gulley erosion, culvert covers.
Potential for surveying, GIS work
Skidder Bridges
Stream assessment-Lake Eden
Forest and Parks
Land Trusts
Catamount Trails
Stowe Trails Partnership
Lamoille Valley Rail Trail-VAST maintenance, bench building, other ideas
Partnership with Salvation Farms-healthcare share and gleaning
American Chestnut Foundation

Realistic Next Steps:

Fundable ideas first
Look at Town's/Community's Support
Prioritize projects that are shovel ready
Contact VYCC about your organization's projects and funding.
Ideal to get 8 weeks' worth of work