Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
September 18, 2008

Members Present: Steve Rae, Jim Pease, Kevin Lane

Members Absent: Gert Lepine, Amy Walker

Guest: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the August 2008 meeting. Following review, Steve motioned that we accept the minutes as corrected. Kevin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the report from the co-chair – with Steve reporting:

- Rail Trail – The letter Steve had drafted for the Select Board regarding property owned by the State and potential location of trailheads was accepted by the Select Board and sent to VAST.

- Big Tree Contest – The *News & Citizen* printed an article informing readers of the contest in a recent edition. Additionally, Jim has posted notices at 6 sites around town.

- Sewer Service Area – The Select Board, Planning Commission (PC), and Village Trustees met informally on September 4th to discuss the Sewer Service Area. During this meeting, the various bodies reached a tentative agreement on the Sewer Service Area. Additionally, Steve informed these bodies that the Commission already has a fund which could accept funds generated by loss of prime agricultural soils.

- Budget – We've been notified by the Town that we must submit our budget for the upcoming year by 9/26.

- Stowe Land Trust (SLT) – Steve contacted SLT to schedule a meeting to discuss the role SLT might play in holding conservation easements should the Commission be able to purchase them.

Next, the Commission discussed the budget for both the Trails Committee and the Conservation Commission. Following discussion, it was agreed that we'd request the same amount for the upcoming year as was requested / approved for the current year (for both bodies).

Then the Commission continued its discussion of zoning-related issues. The Commission reviewed various provisions of it's draft guidelines for using money from the Conservation Commission Fund (guidelines that had been developed a few years ago). As drafted, these guidelines make specific mention of agricultural criteria and prime agricultural soils – so they are very much in-line with the concepts being discussed by the PC, SB, etc. It was agreed that, at a future meeting, these guidelines should be reviewed and formally adopted. Further, the concept of the Commission having a "position" on development was put forth. Following discussion, it was agreed that Kevin would draft a document to facilitate discussion on this topic.

Next, the commission discussed wetlands- specifically the Conditional Use Determination pending (before VT Agency of Natural Resouces) for a development on the Randolph Road. With Jim noting that the wetland is not in the Bedell Brook watershed, a brook classified as B1 for it's high water quality, the Commission agreed that it would not comment on the application.

For "old business" – it was decided that we'd visit trees nominated for the Big Tree contest on 10/4 and at the October meeting agree on winners, notifying winners, and prizes (maple syrup was suggested)

No items of "new business" were offered for discussion.

At 8:34, Jim motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Kevin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane