Mary Ann Wilson

From: <Kevin_Lane@SpringerMiller.com>
To: <mawtclerk@pwshift.com>; <jim.pease@anr.state.vt.us>; <lepine@mt-mansfield.com>; <Siri@sas.state.vt.us>; <srae@pshift.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2004 11:43 AM
Subject: Conservation Commission - September 2004 Minutes

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
September 16, 2004

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the August 2004 minutes. Following review, Gert motioned that the minutes be approved. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (with Jim abstaining due to his absence from the August meeting and John not voting due to tardiness).

Next were the repors from the co-chairs, which included:

- Gert informed the Commission that she had recently seen Merganser duck chicks dropping from their nest (in a tree) to the ground - at their mother's encouragement!

- Gert shared with the Commission a recent Burlington Free Press article on the conservation of farm land in Ferrisburgh - noting the multitude of funding sources utilized in this transaction. Gert will send copies of the article to local landowner who have expressed interest in conserving their lands.

- Steve gave the Commission an overview of the recent Planning Commission (PC) meeting - the primary topic of which was expansion of the Village sewer system. At that meeting, following discussion, the PC asked Steve if the Conservation Commission (CC) would write a letter to the Selectboard endorsing its recommendations - which call for expansion of the sewer into the town's Industrial 3, Commercial, and Business Office Park districts. Steve response was that since the PC's recommendations were in accord with the CC's recommendations (promoting infill versus sprawl, directing development away from areas which a majority of participants in the CC's October 2003 Forum felt were inappropriate for development, etc) that it would be appropriate to send such a letter (see below).

- Steve noted that the Commission's recommendations regarding the importance of recreational transportation in any design changes for Route 100 had been incorporated into the Executive Summary of the Route 100 study group's report.

- Steve informed the Commission that the funds for the Conservation Commission Fund had yet to be transferred into a separate account. Steve motioned that we ask "the treasurer to take all of our money out of the General Fund and deposit it into a money market account and that, going forward, we direct the manner in which funds are invested". Following discussion, this motion was seconded by Kevin and passed unanimously.

- As the next item on the agenda, Steve distributed a draft letter (which he had previously distributed electronically to the CC) to the Selectboard expressing the CC's support for the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding expansion of the Village sewer system. Following discussion during which minor modifications were outlined, Steve was authorized to revise (as discussed and agreed upon) and distribute the letter.

The next item of business concerned continued development of Guidelines for the Conservation Commission Fund Usage. Steve distributed a draft of the subcommittee's recent work which addressed the project proposal submission process and the decision-making process. Following a discussion period during which amendments were proposed, discussed, and agreed upon, it was decided that Steve would forward a copy of the working document (with amendments) to Virginia Rasch, Executive Director of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions, for comment and prepare a revised document for the CC's October 2004 meeting.

The Commission then turned its attention to the Town Forest and, specifically, whether the CC should lead the effort of developing a Management Plan. (No such plan currently exists to guide the property's usage) After preliminary discussion, Steve motioned that that we "proceed with the management plan" and John seconded this motion. The motion was discussed and amended such that we "proceed with the management plan after obtaining the Selectboard's approval to do so". With this amendment, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Steve then offered the Commission the opportunity to discuss "any old business or any new business". The recently enacted revisions to Hyde Park's Zoning were noted and Kevin volunteered to contact the Hyde Park Zoning Administrator to obtain a copy and learn about the process whereby these amendments were formulated and enacted.

At 9:17 PM, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Steve seconded this motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane