

Morristown Conservation Commission

September 15, 2011

Members attending: Richard Sargent, Steve Rae, Jim Pease

Guests: Seth Jensen, LCPC, Jackie Casino LCPC

Meeting opened at 6:45pm

July 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. The August 2011 meeting was not held due to a lack of quorum of members.

Chair Report

Steve went on a Town Forest walk with Jim Eikenberry of USDA-NRCS. Steve now has a data set of GPS points for all cellar holes located to date in the forest. Doug Small the logger interested in the Town Forest job wants the Select board to give him permission now to begin. Steve told Dan Lindley that the board should follow the process developed for activities involving the Town Forest. The Town Forest Plan needs to be completed before any activity begins. Steve spoke with Ray Toolan about the plan. Ray is still working on it and advised Steve that no logging should occur until winter anyway. Steve has a draft timber sale contract for MCC members to review and comment on.

There was a Morristown Community Forum Trails subcommittee meeting. The group wants to work on a trail in Clark Park near the falls and WWTP. It would go from Brooklyn Street to B Street. Peter Bourne is very enthusiastic and is working on getting this trail built. He is also a landowner.

The LVRT Act 250 hearing is September 20th at 6pm at LUHS.

The Oxbow pedestrian trail sustained substantial damage from flooding this year. The stay-mat was damaged. Dan Lindley would like to replace the stay-mat with sod grass and wants input from the MCC. The MCC agreed that sod would be a good idea.

LCPC Forestry Presentation

Seth and Jackie presented a summary of the LCPC Forest Stewardship Study which was funded by the federal farm bill. The 2010 State Forestry Plan influenced their study. Lamoille County landowners typically own lots of 50-200 forested acres. The LCPC study inventories the various forest types in the county, presents strategies to preserve forest land, utilizes Geographic Information Systems (GIS) methods and maps, and overall strives to keep forest land intact. Members reviewed maps and had a general discussion on forest land in the county.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.