Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
September 15, 2005

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

Members Absent: John Lepinski

Guests: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the August 2005 minutes. Following review, Jim motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Then came the report from the co-chair, with Steve offering the following:

- He met recently with Dave Crawford - the new Town Administrator. They discussed such items as the Terrill Gorge access acquisition effort, the potential for an annual budgetary item for the Conservation Commission Fund, and signage for the Duhamel property. In general, Steve felt that Dave would be supportive the the Commision's mission.
- Steve spoke recently with Jeff Meyers, Executive Director of the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC), who indicated that the fundraising effort was going "well"

Then the Commission discussed the use of money from the Conservation Commission Fund for acquisition of the property which provides access to Terrill Gorge should VRC's effort fall short. Steve had drafted a motion addressing this contingency which he distributed at the meeting for review. Following review and discussion, which focused substantially on the dollar amount, Steve motioned that the "The MCC recognizes the importance to Morristown of the public acquisition of an approximate 10 acre parcel off Stagecoach Road, connecting with Kenfield Brook, which contains the traditional access to the Terrill Gorge section of the brook. It understands that this purchase is being negotiated by the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC). It also understands that the purchased land is to be placed under State ownership, and that the deed conveying this ownership will include a clause granting permanent public access across this land from Stagecoach Road to Kenfield Brook. It also understands that the Morristown Selectboard has been informed by VRC of its efforts, and that the Selectboard has approved such a purchase. The MCC recommends the expenditure of up to $10,000 of the MCC Fund, if in addition to other funding, such an amount would make this purchase possible. Further, the Commission delegates to the co-chairs the following:

a) continuing to keep appraised of the efforts of the VRC in arranging this purchase, including the funding situation; b) at their discretion, the writing of a letter to the Morristown Selectcboard, supporting the purchase, with a specific recommendation of the use of MCC funds within the above guidelines." After discussion Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

The next item of business was membership (on the Commission) – with Steve wondering aloud if we should form a subcommittee. Following discussion, it was decided that a subcommittee would not be formed at this time, but Gert said that she would contact Amy Walker to see if she would be interested in serving.

Then the commision discussed the matter of funding and fundraising. The first question was whether the contribution to the MCC fund (via tax) should be an annual item. Following discussion, it was decided that we would begin the effort to make this contribution an annual event – with the amount being between "½ and 1 cent on the grand list" . The second question was whether the commission should take measures to asssess the potential for and position itself to facilitate additional funding from private sources. Kevin motioned that "we form a subcommittee to investigate private fundraising". This motion was seconded by Steve and passed unanimously (following discussion).

The commission then briefly discussed zoning – specifically the matter of setbacks from bodies of water. Kevin noted that the current bylaws include some type of "setback" from waterways and volunteerd to contact Mark Leonard to review the specific protections afforded by the current bylaws.

Steve then offered the opportunity to discuss "any old business" or "any new business" and no items were offered for discussion.

At 8:25, Steve motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane