

Morristown Conservation Commission

August 19, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Town Offices.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Brent Teillon, Mariah Keagy, Richard Sargent

Absent: Jenifer Andrews, Dave Stevens, Jess Zehngut, Kristen Connelly

Guests: Kristen Sharpless

The July meeting minutes were approved with one correction. There was no treasurer's report. Meeting minutes will be reviewed 10 days after they are sent or revised by the Chair at the next meeting.

Old Business:

- (1) Town Forest** – the VAST trail sign has been repaired and a cedar fence installed around a well by Brent, Dave, and Dave's grandson Nathaniel Walker. Mariah was concerned about knotweed spreading along Beaver Meadow Rd due to the Town shoulder mowing. Ron picked up another 100 brochures for the trail boxes. Fran Sladyk will have a group to release apple trees this fall. Walter and his training session group fixed the loose rock on the trail steps across Kenfield Brook. The Bryant Pond parking lot license should be coming soon. There has been no progress on the Kiosk yet. Mariah will check with Walter on his deadline for submitting information on the kiosk project.
- (2) Stowe Land Trust** – the annual meeting is September 12 from 2-5 pm. It will be at Joe's Pond.
- (3) BJM Trail** – Brent talked to Oneal Demars about the trail. He would like MCC to mark the trail. Ron looked at the parcel maps and there is W&L land that could be conserved for the trail. Maybe a local wealthy landowner could buy it and conserve.
- (4) Lake Lamoille Land** – There is a 25-acre parcel around Lake Lamoille owned by W&L that could be conserved. Ron asked the VT River Conservancy if they would be interested.
- (5) Bugbee Spring Land** - Ron hopes that SLT will be interested in this property.
- (6) Ryder Island-Terrill Gorge** – should we take this land from LCPC or not? Brent made a motion that we go to the Selectboard and ask them to accept the land from LCPC. Mariah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Ron will work on a letter to the Selectboard about this.

New Business

- (1) Petition to Selectboard for no development on slopes >25%** - all zoning regulations need to be to the Selectboard by early October. A draft of the petition will be sent to MCC Members.
- (2) W&L trustees meeting about the Bridge St property being given to G Mink** – Kristen and Jessica attended via zoom to express their concerns about the land being transferred without monetary compensation. Brad Limoge was rude to Kristen but

apologized a few days later. Ron Stancliff attended the meeting in person to confirm that the surveyor had addressed the errors in the original plat.

- (3) Kristen Sharpless SLT** – Kristen spoke to the committee for about an hour. The Ricketson Farm project is the current large project for the SLT. There are bogs to the west of UVM's Molly Bog that are part of this project. About ½ of the fund-raising campaign is complete; there will be a county wide effort to finish the campaign. The SLT is working on the priorities in their strategic plan. Affordable housing in Stowe is difficult to accomplish and the River Bend Apts is one project that should be supported although she is not directly involved with it. The Shutesville Wildlife corridor between Waterbury and Stowe is another project she is involved with, and they are establishing agreements with landowners along the corridor through the valley between the Mt Mansfield State Forest and the Putnam State Forest.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary