

Morristown Conservation Commission

August 18, 2022

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Brent Teillon, Dave Stevens, Jess Zehngut

Absent: Kristen Connelly, Jennifer Andrews, Dick Sargent, Mariah Keagy

Guests: David Eisenbaum, Evelyn and Jerry Throne, Martha Battle

Meeting opened at Copley Country Club at 6:35

The June and July meeting minutes approved

Old Business:

Wednesday Night Live

We have not participated in the Mapping Values Exercise with Wednesday Night Live events.

Planning Council

The next Planning Council meeting is Tuesday the 23rd. Ron and Kristen may attend.

Keeping Track

The question arose as to whether we should make a donation to Keeping Track. Sue Morse has had some difficulty after the loss of a partner. Brent made the motion to donate \$25 to Keeping Track, Jess seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Forest Parking Lot

There have been delays with the Town in getting the request for bids out for the parking lot. Tyler Mumley prepared a plan that was accepted by Walter O. Brent will check with Eric Dodge next week.

Town Forest Mowing

There has been mowing done of the Town Forest meadow trails for both wildlife management and trail use. The Town allowed us to hire a contractor. Historic sites #1 and #7 have also been cleaned up.

New Business:

Natural Resource Assessment

Brent has talked with Bob Zaino the Natural Community Forester with the state about preparing an inventory of the natural resources in the Town Forest. Bob can commit to one half day this year. Alternatively a contractor would cost \$6-8000. Bob would most likely come this fall. The findings would be used to update the 2013 Town Forest Plan prepared by Fran Sladyk,

Street Trees

A discussion arose about whether the MCC needs to get involved with Street Trees. Do we need to help with plantings or should we assist MAC with their efforts? Fran Sladyk is now the Town Tree Warden. There have been some historical tree surveys of Morrisville. No decision was reached.

Deer Enclosures

A deer enclosure in the Town Forest has been proposed by the Lamoille County Forester, Emily Potter. The enclosure would be very small and fence out deer to show what types of vegetation could survive without heavy deer browsing. The enclosure would have signs explaining what it was. A motion was made to approve the request and seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Town Forest Trails and Kiosk

We need to complete the TF trail inventory; Brent and Dave have been working on it. Dave has put up two trail map signs. Jim was asked to check in with Walter O to find out the status of the Kiosks. There currently is no funding from the state for the kiosks but there may be other sources. Walter would like to get the design complete before requesting funding. The Town Kiosk 2020 cost estimate was \$1,380.82. Walter stated that he needs to work with the TF subcommittee this September to review the Town's Kiosk wording. He needs to revisit the site to check the state mapping data also in September. Fran and Mariah have GPSd the trails and sent the data to Walter.

MCC Meetings

All future meetings of MCC will be held at the Town Offices.

Demars Trails behind Hospital

There is a section of the Demars Trails that is too steep unless a relocation is made across a gully. The gully crossing will require a large bridge. Poles for the bridge have been delivered. Ron and Fran have GPSd the trails and Ron has color coded the trails. The trail system is not open to the public currently but is specifically for use by the Hospital Lamoille Wellness Team and patients.

Town Forest Trail Day

There will be one more Town Forest Trail Day in September. Brent will decide when and send around a notice.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectively submitted, Jim Pease, Secretary.