Morristown Conservation Commission

August 17,2023

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Brent Teillon, Dave Stevens, Kari Anderson, Jess Zehngut, Jim Pease
Guests: Angela Cote, Jerry Throne

Meeting opened at 6:29 pm
The July 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

Old Business

1. Sue Morse talk – Brent will speak to her soon. Sue may want to do an online webinar, but nothing is scheduled to date. It would be a webinar on Mt Lions with a Q/A session. Sue is sponsored by St Micheals College. We need someone to coordinate the meeting with the Zoom option. Jess is willing to help with that but not during the day. Brent and Jess will work together on setting up the event. Kari believes the event should be interactive with the public and we should have the interactive session at the library but also broadcast it on zoom. Brent will talk to Sue and get more answers. An RSVP would be required so we know what the attendance is. Angela has had a lot of experience with Zoom.
2. Town Forest Trail Signage – Dave and Brett are working on signage. They passed around 3 template material types. They cost $5, 14 and 6. We need about 25 signs and each sign would be about 1ft2. The templates have two tones, green and white split equally. Lettering could be green with white or white with green. The first template for $5 was chosen by the Committee. Jim suggested we use the same font as other Morristown Town Park signage. Kari suggested a border around each sign. We also need to make signs with the label "TH 43". Kari asked if we wanted to make historic signs for the archaeological ruins like in the Sterling Forest of Stowe. Brent stated that we did but that the signs should just say the last owner's name and date. The total cost for the signage would be about $1100. Brent will circulate prices and photos of the signage. Ron will update Jason Luneau on this item.
   Jess gave an update on the Beaver Meadow Trailhead Kiosk. Walter O has now found funding for the kiosk although it was not clear if it was for one or both kiosks. Walter is planning on a fall 2023 installation. Jess will be using QCR codes for more information on the Morristown Trail sites.
3. Cambridge Conservation Commission – Ron has had no contact with the CCC yet on the parcel in question in Cambridge.
4. Beavers on TH 43. Brent reported that the Beavers have moved upstream from the culvert crossing on TH 43 near the Sullivan property. The new owner, Harper Phillips, has been very helpful.
5. Village Tree Inventory – Jim reported that Trish has posted a map of the Village Streets at Town Hall and interested members should sign up for streets to inventory. MACC has offered to provide help. Trish is hoping that people with the I phone apps can inventory at least 4 hours a month.
6. Pollinator Plants for Town Forest – Brent will send around information on Pollinator plants. We can plant in the fall, but the transplants/seeds should be heavily mulched. There is a PA cross country running team that is willing to do this work.

New **Business**

1. Zoning Changes – Ron reported that we need to communicate to the Planning Council about our opposition to development on slopes greater than 25% and that calculating; it should be 15%.

And we need a density waiver for new development that does not use the protected acreage of environmentally reserved lands (streams, wetlands, etc.) in the total acreage used in the calculation. We also need to speak up about the limitations of 2-acre zoning and the need for riparian buffer zoning. We should develop a petition and send it to the Selectboard.

2. Oxbow – Jim reported that the Town has agreed to a buffer zone along the peninsula of Oxbow Park to be planted with trees. The Town and Lamoille NRCD will work out the details and it will be planted in the spring. There is a Lamoille River Cleanup on Saturday August 26.

Interview with Angela Cote

1. Angela was interviewed by the committee. She explained her interest and her background. The Committee members voted unanimously to approve her as a member of the Commission.
2. Jerry Throne will be interviewed in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease, Secretary