

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
July 19, 2007

Members Present: Gert Lepine, Steve Rae, Kevin Lane, Amy Walker

Members Absent: Jim Pease

Guests: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the June 2007 meeting. Following review, Amy motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Then, Steve informed the Commission that he will be unavailable on the 3rd Thursday of August. Following discussion, it was agreed that we'd have the August meeting on August 23rd. Kevin will post notices in the Town Clerk's office, Centennial Library and Post Office.

Then came the report from the co-chair. Gert reports that Leo Lefreve has received State approvals for his subdivision. When she gets the subdivision plan, Steve will contact the Vermont River Conservancy to discuss protection of Terrill Gorge.

Steve's report included the following:

- The Stowe Land Trust (SLT) has been approached by a Morristown property owner regarding the possible conservation of an approximately 100 acre parcel. Much work needs to be done regarding discussion of terms and conditions for such a transaction, etc.

Further, SLT is considering using volunteers in its stewardship program

- The main topic of Planning Commission's (PC) most recent meeting was transportation – and Marci Young presented some non-traditional approaches – such as "car share"

The topic for the Commission's next meeting is review of the results from the PC's survey. Using the "raw data" from the PC's survey results, Steve prepared graphs for 2 of the Commission's questions.

"Should Morristown use the land use planning and regulation tools at its disposal to Preserve Open Lands, Preserve Working Farms, Protect Forest Resources, Protect Ridge Lines, Protect Scenic Vistas, Protect Rural Character?" Survey participants were given the opportunity to provide different answers for each category - and in all cases, a substantial majority felt the Town should use these tools.

Further, a substantial majority feels it is either "very important" or "somewhat important" to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, large tracts of forest, open fields, and hiking trails.

- Heidi Krantz, Town Coordinator, says that the Select Board wants to form a Recreation Study Group. Steve, as a representative from the Commission, will attend the group's 1st meeting (scheduled for September).
- Ancient Roads – The Select Board accepted Steve's recommendations for moving forward with respect to Ancient Roads.

Regarding the Trails Committee, the Select Board confirmed our understanding of our role as interim leaders of the Trails Committee. Steve has discussed Clark Park with Dave Crawford (Town Administrator) who is supportive and suggests signage, trash pickup, etc. In terms of staffing, Amy motioned that we "form a subcommittee for Trails and contact previous members to discuss continued participation". Steve seconded this motion – which passed unanimously following discussion. Steve will contact Judy Geer, Bill Lizotte, Leon Whitcomb, and John Lepinsky.

Next came a report from the Planning Commission subcommittee regarding potential redistricting of Mud City. On June 27th the subcommittee met at the home of Selina Rooney to discuss studying the possibility of redistricting. Mike Miller, Land Use Planner with Lamoille County Planning Commission also attended the meeting. Mike indicated that such a study would cost \$3,000 - \$4,000 and the Planning Commission could apply for Municipal Planning Grant. Also on the 27th, Selina hosted a gathering for Mud City residents to discuss preservation of the area's character. 17 people attended this meeting to learn about and discuss various options. Gert Lepine encouraged individuals to conserve their land – noting that its completely voluntary and irrevocable. Mike Miller supported Gert's remarks and discussed how zoning may function as a second tool to protect the area. All participants recognized the unique character of the area and support measures to protect it.

For old business, Amy noted no further progress on the Town Forest inventory. She will contact Ray Toolan to see what progress he has made in drafting his report.

For new business, Kevin reported that he had been contacted by Bruce Tomlinson to see if the Commission had a policy on alternative energy that might support his application for a 100 foot wind tower. Currently, the Commission has no such formal position. And given the complexity and magnitude of the issue, the Commission was unable to formalize such a position in 1 meeting.

At 8:30, Amy motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane