

Morristown Conservation Commission

July 16, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Meeting was held behind the Masonic building.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon, Jess Zehngut and Mariah Keagy, Dave Stephens.

Absent: Richard Sargent, Jenifer Andrews.

The June meeting minutes were approved. 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 Kiosk**– Mariah and Brent talked with Walter O about the kiosk. Walter understands the need for the kiosk. How can we make it happen? The GMC Sterling Section has some funds. The Beaver Meadow cabin will be renovated in the next year. Walter said the state will pay for the kiosk and they will make the Town Forest trails map at a low cost. The Front Country Low Use Model is the one Walter wants to use but it only has 1 panel. We could do an inset map, but it might be better to have two kiosks. We would have to pay for the kiosk in that case. Our kiosk could have historic information as well as the trail map. The map would need to be metal. We need to work out a schedule for installing it with Walter.
- (2) ATV Meeting**– The meeting was Tuesday night and was best summarized in the article by the N&C. There was damage on the Town Road/VAST Trail on Town land on the road to Johnson. We may post it. Why are the ATV users asking for access through Center Rd when Hyde Park does not allow them to use Center Rd in Hyde Park?
- (3) Open Space Inventory** – There are 5 areas that have been created by the new conservation subdivision bylaw: 2 will be deeded to the Town and 3 to the local homeowner's association. The latter 3 may not be publicly accessible except for the owners. Todd is willing to talk about it. We should discuss the method of calculation and a requirement that the bylaw apply to developments that are in growth areas.
- (4) The Percy development on Elizabeth Lane** - was originally proposed as a seven-lot subdivision but is now 18 lots (with maybe 9 more) with a conserved area of open space which is mostly protected wetlands.
- (5) Conservation Fund** – Brent wants a committee of Brent, Dave, Jen, Jess and Kristen to meet with Jens Hilke for a 3-hour session to come up with a framework for a fund. That meeting could be in early October.

(6) **Staci Pomeroy Letter**— We should ask Danielle Owczarski the Lamoille River Basin planner what we should do. We should talk to Eric Dodge about a response to the letter and get it. We should get some new mapping done of the river corridor where it is lacking. The Town seems to be focused on how they can build in the floodplain. Jim will follow up with Eric Dodge.

(7) **Sue Morse Talk** — the talk will be at PA on October 22 at 6 pm.

New Business

(1) **Kristen Sharpless SLT** — Can come to the August meeting at 7:30 at the Town Hall. She will update us on the Ricketson Farm and Maple Run projects.

(2) **Site #7 in the Town Forest** — should be the focus of our work party in August. Cleaning up and restoring the site, marking the well and repairing the snowtrackers sign.

(3) **Trail Day** — will be July 31 with August 1 a rain date. We will work on Site #7.

(4) **Meeting with Audubon** — We are too busy to meet with Steve H now. We really should do an eco-inventory of the whole TF first before any more trail development. Audubon has done low-cost bird inventories as has the UVM Naturalist Program. Mariah will get a list of possible contacts.

(5) **TF Apple Tree Release** — Brent stated that the #7 site has apples that need to be released. Ron is going to do it. Fran S and Fish and Game Club members will do another release at the old orchard near Bryant Pond Rd.

(6) **Backman Subdivision** — A subdivision by Nathan Backman at 586 Cote Hill Rd appears to violate the steep slopes recommendation that we just made to the Planning Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary