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Morristown Conservation Commission

July 16, 2015

TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Steve Rae, Jim Pease

Guest: Ed Lowenton

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm

Member Reports

Steve – Selectboard has not acted on the trail designation of the old town highway. They will at the first SB meeting in August.

Ron- reported for Brent, he is concerned about the canoe access at the Tenney Bridge. The south side of the river is feasible and the Village owns the land. North side owners are not interested. VTrans is planning on replacing the bridge in the next few years. Canoe users are also looking for a camping site at Clark Park, one of the islands has been suggested. Brent and Ron are going to look.

New Business

Wesolow Property consists of 330 acres. Ron sent a letter to Mr Wesolow but has received no reply to date. Discussion revolved around the pros (best access thru Childrens Village Rd, appraisal value not very high (less than \$2000/acre), would be a nice addition to Catamount Trail route), and cons (loss of property from tax rolls but land is already in forest current use). Mr. Wesolow may ask us to see if the Town will vote to buy it. He could work with us or the Vermont Land Trust.

Clark Park Ed Lowenton discussed his web page-slide show and walked us thru it. Wanted to know if we should post it on FPF where it would get a lot of visibility. He also proposed starting the planning and design process possibly by getting an artist to do concept drawings of the property. These would include access points, landscaping. The group felt he should talk with Trish and possibly the Rec Committee for input first. Also he should present the idea of posting it to FPF and doing the design concepts to the Village Trustees since they own the land right now. Also the discussion concluded that a risk of vandalism analysis should be done before any improvements to the park were made.

Snow dumping Jim reviewed three locations where the Town is planning to dump snow this winter since they have lost the Cherry St and most of the Bridge St locations. The Town will construct two small areas on either side of Bridge St near the current site but in the Town owned right of way. The areas should act as sand filters and soak in most of the water with little or no runoff. The embankment on the Crew-Hirschak property will be cut back and not necessarily look very good for a while. A second site will be off the VTrans (old Baptist Church property at the corner of Bridge-100). VTrans is going to be dumping here as well. There will a silt fence installed and there is a berm (old road) further towards the river so water is not expected to travel far. This is in the same location as MCC has proposed a trail head for Clark Park. Hopefully this site will not be a long term site. The third site is a VTrans owned parcel just north and west of the rail trail new bridge. The Town has tentative permission to use it this year and will start installing a berm on 3 sides to retain the flow, hide the snow and retain trash. The LCNRD will work with the Town to get a grant to plant trees as a buffer, install a stormwater retention areas, and to create a site for long term disposal of stormwater sediments.

Town Forest Contract Dave, Brent reviewed the contract and felt that all issues were addressed. A motion was made to approve the contract once Brent gave the final approval. The motion passed.

Old Business

A CD is about to expire and Maryann has made a recommendation on how to renew it. The group voted to go with Maryann's recommendation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease, Secretary