

From: Pease, Jim [Jim.Pease@state.vt.us] 
Sent: 6/25/2012 10:20:30 AM
To: rlstancliff@pshift.com [rlstancliff@pshift.com]
Subject:

Morristown Conservation Commission
June 21, 2012

Attendees: Dick Sargent, Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Steve Rae, Brent Teillon
Guests: Chris Ransom

Meeting opened at 6:31 pm

April and May 2012 meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Members Report:

Steve and Jim summarized the Town Forest(TF) sign assembly. Jim bought the hardware and posts; total cost about \$60. Jim prepared the signs based on the Dept of Forest and Parks sign at the end of the Beaver Meadow Road. Jim and his son installed the sign at the BMR main trailhead. Steve contacted the Town Highway Department and made arrangements for the crew to install the other two signs. One is at the gate just above the upper BMR trailhead upper parking lot. The other is at the end of the Bryant Pond Rd. The crew did a good job.

Steve reported that there is a public meeting on the reclassification of the TF town roads on the Bryant Pond end of the forest. The proposed reclassification is from class 4 to trail.

Brent reported that he spoke with Ray Toolan and Ray said he should be going out the second week of July to finish the TF forest inventory. Steve said that he should check with Ray and to make sure that the 3 plantations have a conservation cutting plan completed by this fall as had been discussed with the Selectboard. If Ray cannot meet that deadline he should let Brent know.

Chris mentioned that managing the forest for old growth timber and wildlife snags would be consistent with conserving the forest. Brent thought we would be reducing the monoculture form of the plantations and that we would leave snags.

Old Business:

Town Forest

There is a need for TF signage prohibiting ATVs.

There was discussion about replacing the missing culvert on the TF road/trail on the Sulham property. It was agreed that any road/trail work wait until after the timbering is done.

The suggestion was made that the MCC apply for a recreational trails grant to construct a kiosk and trail markers that tell the history/cultural importance of the forest.

Clark Park

There was a general discussion about making the existing trails wider in order to be safer for public use. Ron noted that he will be on the park property while working on the new bypass bridge and that he will be looking for opportunities to improve the trails or add new connector trails.

The suggestion was made to install a new sign at the A Street Bridge entrance to the park; the LUHS Tech Center could make the sign(s). The trails could be blazed with Morristown trail markers. Chris thought that no smoking signs should be put up due to the combustible nature of the forest there. He also

mentioned that he had an estimate of about \$5000 to remove all of the woody debris that has been dumped in the parking area around the generating plant. Also the old A Street bridge is being stored at the Town Garage and could be reinstalled to make a connection with Brooklyn Street. The commission members thought a walk in the park in September was warranted given all of the suggestions made.

New Business:

The MCC has \$6500 available in cash and Maryann would like to know how the committee would like to invest it. A CD was discussed and Steve suggested putting \$5000 in a CD for two years or whatever Maryann thought was appropriate. A motion was made to this effect and was approved unanimously. Ron wanted to know if there was any interest by the commission in pursuing the purchase of the Sullivan property between the TF and the state land. Brent suggested that the parcel with the Bryant Pond also might be worth pursuing. A general discussion ensued. Ron would like to organize a walk in September with members of the Vermont Land Trust and the Stowe Land Trust. Ron will contact them and make the arrangements. Jim suggested that Ron compile a list of family names associated with the land in the Town Forest and that Jim would put together a note for the News & Citizen requesting old photographs from the descendants of any of those families or their farms.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease, Secretary