

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
June 21, 2007

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Ron Stancliff

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

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

Then came the report from the co-chair - with Steve offering the following:

- Valcour Project – The Stowe Land Trust closed on the Valcour property on June 19th. The *News & Citizen*, *Barre Times-Argus*, *Stowe Reporter* and radio station WCVT all reported the event.
- Web-site – The domain for the Commission's website has been registered and the software required to develop the site is available.
- PC Survey – Steve has the raw data from the Planning Commission's (PC) survey and is analyzing the data.

Gert reported that she, Amy and the Town's Tree Warden had recently walked the Mowry Forest with a group of foresters from the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF). NEFF is currently logging the forest – using sustainable techniques. Amy will bring a map of the forest to the next meeting. (From <http://www.newenglandforestry.org/> - The Mowry Forest is a gift from the late Isabel Gwynne Mowry, made on December 19, 1980. The land is in both Morristown and Elmore, Vermont, and contains 269 acres of woodland and open hayland. The deed to NEFF includes a ban on hunting and trapping. In 1980, Mrs. Lewis D. Mowry of Morrisville gave the Foundation this parcel of land. Originally called "Timberdoodle" by the Mowrys, this large farm, with vistas of Mount Elmore and Mount Mansfield, provides excellent cover for woodcock, also known as the "timberdoodle". The forest contains two beaver ponds and associated wetlands, a major brook (Bedell Brook) and two minor brooks. There are two small plantations of red pine. The forest cover is a mix of northern hardwoods, mixed wood and spruce/fir/hemlock. Access by foot is possible on the network of skid roads used for timber management.)

Next the commission discussed the Letter of Understanding to the Select Board regarding the Trails Committee. The commission reviewed and approved, following discussion, a draft letter written by Steve, which will be on the Select Board's July 16th agenda.

Next on the agenda was the PC's Town Plan update.

- The Conservation Commission's Planning Commission Subcommittee will meet on June 28th at 6:30 PM at the home of Selina Rooney, with LCPC's Mike Miller, to discuss grant options available to study zoning concepts for Mud City. At 7 PM, interested neighbors ("mud citizens") will join the discussion.

- Jim reported that Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) has a staff member – Millie Archer – who serves as a liaison between VLCT and town's on water resource issues. Following discussion, it was agreed that we'd bring the VLCT's *pro-forma* Stream Buffer ordinance to the PC's attention and let them know that there is a water resource specialist as well.

Next, Amy, the Commission's Records / Information Manager, gave an update. The Commission has been given a file cabinet as well as permission to locate the cabinet in Heidi Krantz's office (in the Town Office). Amy will begin relocating material from her home to the Town Office.

Ron reported that there will be a bird watch at Joe's Pond on June 30th.

For old business

- Amy reported that she had not been able to get the Green-Up day thank you letter published. Next year, she'll submit it as an letter to editor of the News and Citizen (free) rather than The Transcript's Thank You section (\$10).
- Another Green-Up item was the suggestion that the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District write a summary of the day's accomplishments
- Jim reported that he has contacted UVM (Rick Paradise) regarding the land for sale adjacent to Molly's Bog.

Not items were offered for new business.

At 7:48, Amy motioned that the meeting be adjourned (so that they could walk through Clark Park). Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane