

Morristown Conservation Commission

June 17, 2021

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

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon, Jess Zehngut and Mariah Keaghy, Jenifer Andrews.

The May 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 – Bryant Pond Rd parking lot** – Dave and Brent met with Walter Opuszynski and they GPS'd the site and marked it with tape. The DFPR Stewardship Committee has not met yet and decided to allow it. Shannon Morrison of DEC Wetlands attended and will approve it as marked. Brent thought it would not likely be built until Spring 2022. Mariah wants the contract to have language related to controlling invasive plants.
- (2) Staci Pomeroy Floodplain letter** – Todd was asked about the letter by Jim and thought it should go to the Planning Council for discussion even though it is addressed to the Trustees/Selectboard. The PC writes the Town Plan and the SB/Tr approve it. Ron thinks we should see what other Towns have for language in their town plans. Jess thinks it is the interpretation of the law that is being misunderstood. Town Plan comments are open until August. Kristen thinks it will be a difficult battle to win. Jess, Mariah, Jennifer and Jim volunteered to create a committee to work on the issue and attend the PC meetings.
- (3) Kiosk** – Mariah talked about the user experience with Walter. Messaging is very important. Brent thinks we should have 1 kiosk in the lower lot and none in the upper lot. Water agrees. The consensus was that there should be one big kiosk in the lower lot on the state (west) side of the parking lot. Jess got a quote from Great Big Graphics for 5 trail map signs (8.5x11) for \$170.
- (4) Susan Morse Talk** – will be at PA on 10/23. Kristen will confirm this in writing with Michelle at the school. Dick would like to do radio publicity.
- (5) Raise the Blade Campaign** – Kristen reached out to the schools and the Town. The school is already following the campaign. The Town should be asked in July once the new TA is in position. Jennifer talked to the Cemetery Commission board but they have already met for this summer. It was suggested that we asked the Town for action now rather than wait until the fall. There have been a few letters to the Editor in the paper about the campaign.
- (6) Front Porch Forum** – The Town does not make a donation to FPF. MCC should make a donation. Brent made a motion that a \$50 donation be made. Jim seconded it. The motion passed. Ron will ask the Town to send a check to MCC to be sent to FPF.

- (7) **Ron cc:** - Ron wants to be cc'd on any email correspondence about MCC issues.
- (8) **Green Up** - Brent will send a copy of the Town Green Up results.
- (9) **Kenfield Island** – Ron had not heard back from Craig Brown.
- (10) **BJAMS Trail** – Ron will check with Penny and Dan to see if they have discussed the trail. Kristen pointed out that there has been a large increase in use and a number of new bike trails built.

New Business

- (1) **Kristen Sharpless SLT** – Kristen could come in August to the MCC meeting at 7:30. The Ricketson Farm is the new big project. Ron gave her a copy of the Bugbee Springs survey. There may be money from the SLT to the Village for the development rights. Kristen would like the Village to deed the land to the Town.
- (2) **SLT Annual Meeting** – is 9/12 at Joes Pond
- (3) **DRB Hearing 6/23** – there will be DRB hearing on a 1.8 acre parcel on Silver Ridge Rd. The land is in two zoning districts and most of is the rural residential. Only 5000ft² is in the low density zone. The owner is requesting to build 2 houses on the lot. This is a common practice with towns to avoid conflicts on zoning decisions with landowners. The Howard St project is very similar. Jess will talk to Etienne Hancock about Potash Brook and the Howard St parcel. The MCC believes the parcel should not be developed and the stream protected.
- (4) **Library Maple Tree** – Brent reported that the new tree was not doing well and needs to be watered. Kristen and Jess volunteered to help water.
- (5) **Conserved Land Inventory** – Brent and Fran Sladyk will work on inventorying the conservation properties that have been created by the new bylaw. We need to talk to Todd about the MCC commitment to this effort and that some lots should simply be conserved rather than have trails/parking. In addition the MCC needs to be notified when conserved lands are created by the bylaw.
- (6) **Sullivan Land** – Ron handed out a suggestion for fund raising. The Sullivan land that borders both state and town land is appraised at \$123,600 and is about 53 acres. With successful acquisition the Town could negotiate with the State to swap this parcel with the state owned parcel inside Beaver Meadow Rd abutting the Town Forest.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary