

Mary Ann Wilson

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Subject: Conservation Commission - June 04 Minutes

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
June 17, 2004

Members Present: Kevin Lane, Gert Lepine, John Lepinski, Jim Pease, Steve Rae

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the May 2004 minutes. After review and discussion, John motioned that they be accepted as written. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (after Jim noted a misspelling in Marci Young's name)

Next was the report from the chair, including the following:

- Steve attended the June 03 meeting for Lamoille county towns sponsored by the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions (VACC). Attending were representatives of towns with Conservation Commissions (Morrisville, Cambridge, Elmore, and Stowe) and a town contemplating the creation of a Conservation Commission (Hyde Park). Of note, Stowe recently updated their inventory of wetlands after noting that some development had occurred in wetlands (perhaps in violation of statutes designed to protect those wetlands). And Cambridge is planning to develop an inventory of its resources (not limited to wetlands).

- Steve informed the Commission of a townsperson's desire to do some commercial development in the Town Forest, Mount Mansfield State Forest and the Zeisburg Property. Steve will contact Kate Willard to discuss the Commission's standing regarding the Zeisburg Property in this matter.

- Steve gave a brief overview of preliminary results from the Town's Recreational Use survey. Over 250 responses have been returned- with great interest in walking and hiking. Also noted, was the wide range of activities registered (including reading).

- Finally, Steve noted that a moto-cross event had recently been held on the Duhamel property - in direct violation of Town policy which prohibits use of motorized vehicles on this property. It again raises

the issue of the monitoring and managing desired uses on town property.

Next, the commission discussed matters related to Zoning. Steve noted that decisions pertaining to the expansion of the town sewer will hinge, in part, upon the input of the Planning Commission. In an attempt to support and inform their decision making process, it was suggested that the Commission draft some thoughts on the matter - with Jim volunteering to get the ball rolling. Next, the matter of Conservation Commission support for the Planning Commission's efforts on general zoning issues was resurrected (after being superseded by more immediate concerns - such as Town Meeting Day preparation, Green Up planning, etc) Following discussion, it was decided that Steve and Kevin would contact the Planning Commission.

The Commission then turned its attention the Guidelines for Conservation Commission Fund usage. The subcommittee responsible for moving this item forward had met during the prior month and an updated draft document was presented reflecting their efforts. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the guidelines as drafted - and decided that it would be beneficial to do the following:

- Subject likely / desired projects to the Guidelines as a test of how fair they would be.
- Share the draft with selected individuals to obtain their feedback.

The Commission then reviewed and discussed a document prepared by Judy Geer regarding Clark Park. The document included both historical information as well as a vision of the park's future. Following discussion, Steve offered this motion: " Does the Conservation Commission support the general concept of the vision statement for Clark Park". This motion was seconded by Kevin. After additional discussion, a vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Jim shared with the Commission a matter that had been brought to his attention by a concerned citizen - the manner in which the flood plain along the north bank of the Lamoille on the Town's eastern border is being filled. Jim discussed the role of the flood plain and the adverse consequences which could result from such action, which he kindly categorized as "not best practice".

Steve offered the commission the opportunity to discuss any items of old business or new business - but the offer was declined.

At 9:02 PM, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. John seconded this motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane