

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
June 16, 2008

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

Members Absent: None

Guest: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the May 2008 meeting. Following review, Gert motioned that we accept the minutes as corrected. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the report from the co-chair. Steve reported that:

- The Commission received a letter from the Vermont River Conservancy expressing its thanks for the Commission's support, notifying us of an upcoming walk on the North Branch of the Winooski, and alerting us to the fact that there may soon be another transaction on a Terrill Gorge property.
- The Commission received a letter from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources inviting us to it's Clean Water Day (June 7)
- The Planning Commission published a revised Zoning Bylaw Schedule. One odd addition to the schedule was the August 5th meeting to discuss "adding 'fed, state, county, municipal facilities (e.g. National Guard facilities)" to the Rural Residential Agriculture Zone" – a concept which was never discussed during the Town Plan Update process.

Then the Commission reviewed progress on the Heath Parcel. Gert reported that a local family is disassembling the cabin with plans to reconstruct it in Johnson. Kevin will visit the site prior to the next meeting to assess progress and see whether it is time to schedule a closing with the State.

Next on the agenda was a discussion about the rezoning of the Business Office Park. Despite the fact that those who attended recent hearings believe that it is a "done deal", there was consider concern about this potential development. Jim and Amy will spawn an email thread to organize thoughts and ideas.

The Commission then discussed the role it might play in helping the Town demonstrate to the State's Act 250 Commission that the Town's has mechanisms in place to address the preservation of Prime Agricultural Soils. Steve shared with the Commission a letter he had drafted to the Planning Commission (PC) with some suggestions. Following discussion, the verbiage of this draft letter was approved for distribution to the PC, Select Board, Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) and Morrisville Water and Light.

Then the commission discussed the proposed Mud City Zoning District. Amy reported that the neighbors had been meeting regularly with Mike Miller to formulate concepts for the Zoning Bylaws. The group will meet next on June 26th. Steve suggested that the group keep Steve Berson (PC) apprised of its efforts and emphasized the importance of seeing / reviewing the draft bylaws before they are presented to the PC.

Next on the agenda was the Rail Trail. It has been suggested that the Commission serve as the Town's lead group on issues pertaining to the Rail Trail. Issues that will likely need consideration include access points, signage, and in-kind contributions (from the Town). Given the fact that the Commission is over-seeing the Town's Trails Committee, it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Commission to assume this additional responsibility.

The next item on the agenda was the Town Forest Inventory – with Amy reporting that she will schedule another day to continue the inventory.

No items were offered for discussion of "old business" or "new business".

At 8:25, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane