Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
May 19, 2005

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Jen, Ron Stancliff

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the April 2005 minutes. Following review John motioned that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Then, the commission briefly recapped the Green-Up Day effort, noting the following:

- Gert suggested having more bags at the recycling center – since many participatants went to the recycling center to get their bags
- Jim noted that the Green-Up banner at the corner of Main & Portland Streets had been twisted by the wind such that readability was comprised and wondered if a different method of hanging the banner could be utilized in the future.
- John suggested that an "action shot" of people gathering litter might inspire a greater level of participation
- Kevin suggested having a slide with directions to the recycling center, in addition to Green-Up day poster, displayed at the Bijou next year
- Steve noted that the town looked good!

Next was the report from the co-chair.

- Steve gave a progress report on the Stancliff conservation effort, reporting that:
  - Ron must 1st complete the Subdivision Process
  - The Joe's Pond property will be conserved first
  - Numerous drafts of the easement agreement have been developed and both parties feel they are close to having a final version
  - The stewardship fees will be in the "low to mid thousands" of dollars
- The Commission has been approached by the Friends of Worcester Range (FWR) to host the FWR's annual Fall Celebration. Hosting the event typically entails arranging food, preparing a presentation, and conducting some type of outdoor activity. Following discussion, it was decided that we would accept responsibility for hosting the event, since it would be a good opportunity to get to know others who share our interest and mission.

- Next Steve showed maps prepared by LCPC which previously had been shared with the Planning Commission. One map had a "build out" analysis – showing what the town might look like if the maximum number of houses permitted by Zoning Bylaw and natural features (soils, slopes, wetlands, etc) were to occur. Also shown where 2 aerial photos (one of the state Route 100 corridor ; the other of the entire town) upon which property lines and road names had been projected, etc.
- Steve then noted an upcoming matter before the Development Review Board (DRB) in which the applicants seeks permission to do residential development on a property with wetland. (Kevin also wondered whether the site is located within a Public Community Ground Water Source Protection Area.) State Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) approval is required for such development (residential development on a property with wetland) and Steve wondered whether the DRB requires written approval from ANR. Kevin said he'd contact Mark Leonard to learn about the procedure. Additionally, he'd contact ANR to find out the frequency with which wetland maps are updated and the process by which this information is forwarded to municipalities.

Next the Commission discussed the South River Street property which is being sold by auction. Steve reported that he had discussed the property with Scott Corse (since its adjacent to the Water Treatment plant) and Scott felt there was no point in having the town purchase the land since the State would ultimately purchase it when the Alternate Truck Route is developed – and for the town to purchase it now would just create additional paperwork. Jim and John discussed the potential recreational value of the property – focusing especially on the portage aspect. Gert thought the town should purchase it because its "cheap" (a few thousand dollars for .7 acres.) Ultimately, it was decided that we'd take no immediate action (such as approaching the Selectboard about the matter)

Then the commission discussed the interim guidelines for the Town Forest. Steve reported that he had met with Tag (Town Administrator) – who had suggested that we consider encouraging parking in the Beaver Meadow lot and that we budget funds for signage . (As a side matter, John volunteered to contact the Stowe Land Trust to learn about the sign along Stowe's Quiet Path (such as cost, who made them, etc)) In terms of pursuing adoption of the Guidelines, Steve motioned that "the Commission have a Subcommittee to further work on the Guidelines". John seconded the motion – which passed unanimously. The subcommittee will be comprised of Steve and John.

Then Ron Stancliff joined the meeting and personally reviewed the progress on his conservation project – with his report largely mirroring the one Steve had previously given.

Next Steve noted that we had still be unable to find the schedule which defines the appointment term for various commissioners. Steve will ask the Town's Administrative Assistant to see if she can locate anything in record. If she can't, then we'll propose a new schedule to the Selectboard.

Steve then offered the opportunity to discuss "any old business" or "any new business" and no items were offered for discussion.

At 8:55 PM, John motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane