

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
May 18, 2006

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

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

The first order of business was the review of the April 2006 minutes. Following review, Jim motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next was the election of officers for the upcoming year. Following discussion, Kevin motioned that the "Commission retain the same set of officers for the upcoming year". Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. For the record, officers are: Co-chair – Gert and Steve ; Treasurer – Jim ; Secretary – Kevin ; Official Records Organizer – Amy.

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

- The commission now has its own email address – conservmt@pshift.com.
- Amy and Steve attended the annual meeting of the VT Association of Conservation Commissions . The focus this year was on Energy and Waste. They reported of learning of a landfill in Northern Vermont that is producing electricity from methane!
- Our Green-Up Day report (65+ registrants with the Town Clerk ; 200 bags distributed) has been submitted to the State coordinator.
- Friends of the Worcester Range (FOWR) asked if we'd be willing to host their annual fall celebration. Following discussion, it was agreed that we'd be willing to host the event if FOWR can help defray expenses.
- Leo Lefevre is considering subdividing a parcel of land on the Stagecoach Road which borders Kenfield Brook / Terrill Gorge. Gert will contact Leo to discuss the possibility of a conservation easement on the portion which borders the brook.
- The Commission received a letter from the Mark & Peggy Struhsacker indicating that they are discussing conserving some of their land with the Stowe Land Trust (SLT) and inquiring about some financial support for the transaction of the Commission. Following discussion, it was decided that we'll follow-up with a letter acknowledging their communication. Additionally, Steve & Gert will join SLT and the Struhsackers for the June 8, 2006 9 AM site walk.

- Steve and Gert joined the SLT, Nature Conservancy, and the landowner for a site walk and discussion of conservation easements on a parcel near Joe's Pond.

The commission then discussed potential improvements for Green-Up Day – with the following items being suggested:

- Send a letter to the *News & Citizen* thanking participants.
- Consider having a “focus area” - such as what was done at Wilkens Street Ravine a few years ago.
- Ask Water & Light for “relief” from it's policy of not putting banners up before May 1st

Next, Steve distributed the Commission's documents regarding the Conservation Commission Fund Usage Guidelines for review.

Then the Commission discussed the May 20th Community Forum. 176 mailings (containing a letter urging attendance and a survey) were sent to “friends” of the Commission. Amy reviewed the educational materials the Commission will have on hand. And Steve showed the map that will enable participants to indicate areas they'd like to remain open as well as areas where they feel development should be focused.

Next, the Commission discussed the land on Lake Lamoille which is for sale. Steve noted that there had been communications between the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC), the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR) and Morrisville Water & Light (W&L) about this matter and W&L has indicated a willingness to hold title on the property. Given this development, VRC is contacting the realtor that represents the seller.

No items were offered for “old business”.

For “new business”:

- Steve noted that there is a new member of Planning Commission - an individual with a degree in land use planning (and suggested that the film of the 1999 “Our Town” Forum may be a good vehicle for bringing new participants “up to speed”)
- Kevin reported that he had followed-up with Ron Stancliff regarding zoning for natural habitat – sending the Bylaws to Ron and calling Ron for feedback.

At 8:34 PM, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Amy seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Lane