

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
May 17, 2007

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the April 2007 meeting. Following review, Gert motioned that we accept the minutes as amended. Kevin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (with Jim abstaining due to absence from the prior meeting).

Then came the report from the co-chair. Gert has received a letter from Ann Heath – owner of a 10 acre parcel of land adjacent to the Beaver Meadow portion of the State Forest. It is Ann's wish that the land be returned to its natural state with ownership being transferred (free of charge) – to the State. Further, it is Ann's hope that the Commission's can assist her in fulfilling this wish. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Commission should support this project. Steve will contact Kate Willard, State of Vermont, to see if the State is interested in the land. Gert will contact Ann to let her know that the Commission is interested in helping her.

Steve's portion of the co-chair's report included:

- Green-Up
 - He and Gert were at the Trombley Hill transfer station all day
 - We had approximately the same number of registrants as in the prior year – but more bags were observed along the roadside
 - The system whereby participants can leave bags at the roadside for pickup by the Town's road crew is great
 - Amy will send a letter to the News and Citizen on the Commission's behalf thanking participants and those businesses who donated goods & services
- Dave Crawford (Town Administrator), in a discussion with Steve, wondered if we might have ideas regarding issues resulting from concurrent use (people walking their dogs while soccer games are in progress) of the Oxbow. Kevin will discuss the issue with Tom Stames, head of Morrisville Youth Soccer. If necessary, Jim and Amy will draft a notice for Dave.
- Valcour Project – The Town has sent its letter to VT Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) expressing its support for the project (with Steve's assistance) – a prerequisite for the closing (which should occur in early June)
- Website – Steve discussed the Commission's desire to have a website with Dave Crawford – and he is supportive. Steve and Kevin will move ahead with domain name registration and licensing of software.

Next on the agenda was discussion of the Letter of Understanding to the Select Board regarding the Trails Committee. Following discussion, it was decided that

Steve would draft a letter for the June 2007 meeting indicating that the Commission will:

- Assume the role, as requested
- Contact former "active" Trails Committee members to alert them of the change
- Undertake, as a 1st project, the Clark Park Trail
- Relinquish the role at the Select Board's request

Then the Commission engaged in further discussion of Green-Up day.

- Steve suggested that we begin Green-up preparations earlier – identifying a project (or projects) such as providing assistance to individuals who require scrap metal removal.
- Since bags are gathered from the roadsides on the Monday following Green-Up day, we might want to get the bags sooner and encourage people to get out prior to Green-Up day (so that those who have a scheduling conflict may still participate)

For the Town Plan update:

- It was agreed that the sub-committee should meet soon.
- Jim indicated that Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) had recently released a draft for a stream setback ordinance. In light of a recent Planning Commission meeting, it seemed like this might help Morristown – which has recently permitted homes to be constructed in inappropriate areas.
- Amy said she'd like to see the Commission's Ag Subcommittee move forward with an agriculture inventory (as suggested by the Planning Commission). After discussion, the Commission agreed that Steve & Amy should seek to discuss, with Mike Miller of LCPC, what would be involved in obtaining a grant to study Mud City as a special agricultural zoning district.

For old business, Amy clarified that she & Gert (the Agricultural Subcommittee) were working another group that has a "county-wide" reach.

For new business, Jim noted that some land near Molly's Bog is for sale. He will contact the realtor to get information about the land. He'll also contract UVM & Stowe Land Trust to see if they are interested in acquiring it.

At 9:10 PM, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane