

May 16, 2024

Attendees: Ron Stancliff, Dave Stevens, Jerry Throne, Kari Anderson, Jim Pease, Pamela Stanyon, Sandra Zebal, Jess Zehgut(half hour late)

Members Absent: Brent Teillon

Guests: Evelyn Throne, Hilary Warner

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 6:30

The April meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Brent provided a written report which was sent or given to all members. A motion to approve the minutes was made and unanimously passed. The report is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

New Business

1. Demars-W&L-Family Center-All Saints School Trail

A discussion was pursued on should MCC offer to these landowners a 10 foot wide trail easement payment of \$5-10/linear foot for the trail between the Morristown Corners Rd and Bridge Street? This would total about \$12,000(~1400-D,~\$3150-W&L,\$4500/BM,\$3250-FC). Neither the landowner or Town would be legally libel for any trail accidents per state law. AS has not expressed any enthusiasm for the project to date. For W&L would the Town of Village get the payment? A motion was made to do a site visit to the trail properties as well as the connecting trail on MSI property on the Lake Lamoille peninsula. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public survey/Questionnaire

As in the past should MCC conduct a public survey of attitudes towards various conservation issues? Should MCC and the Town PC collaborate on the questions? The survey could be included in the electric bill or tax notice mailing. The questions would be about various issues such as new zoning district creation like the Elmore ridge 10 acre lot idea. The survey should include non-property owners. The discussion will be continued in June.

3. Conservation Networking

Pam discussed how Lamoille Health Partners and Lamoille Home Hospice have collaborated on a trail proposed around the eastern side of the Copley Hospital Property on Washington Highway. There will be fitness trails and a hospital campus map created. She encouraged MCC to work with these two groups. The two groups are looking for sponsorships or grants to develop this idea. Hilary Warner spoke about connecting this trail to Copley Golf Course and to Elmore Street so the trail was a large loop.

4. State Urban Tree Meeting

The conference is in Randolph and 3 people will attend. A motion was made to provide the funding (\$50 per person) to attend the conference. The motion passed unanimously

5. Zoom Training

Ron spoke to Judy A. There is a new regulation that requires that all public meetings held by the Town need to be on Zoom. Judy will train someone. The Zoom software is changing in June. Jess will go the meeting with Judy.

6. Other- Field Walks

There is a need for members to visit a number of sites being discussed or of interest to the group such as Clark Park, Bugbee Springs, the Demars Trail, etc.

7. Morristown Bog

Ron met with representatives about the access point to Morristown Bog which is owned by the State. He also discussed land that he owns on Joe's Pond. They also met with Thomas Paine about getting a permanent easement relocated to Molly Bog which UVM owns.

Old Business

1. Earth Day/Arbor Day and GreenUp-Brents Reports on Earth Day/Arbor Day and GreenUp numbers to date (attached)
2. Trash and Recycling Talk-Evelyn and Jerry Throne, Hilary Warner summarized that about 10 people attended. Evelyn suggested that having the talk earlier in the spring would get a higher attendance. There was a lot of information sharing and it went well. It is important to repeat the event and/or put on zoom for sharing. There is a need for better follow-up on questions by either MCC or the Solid Waste District.
3. Duhamel Property-Ron has been transplanting white pine trees from this house to the gravel pit slopes. Natural succession is happening on the 15-acre pit, but we should look at ways to accelerate that. Peter Danforth at LCNRCD is interested in fall planting. Could PA/LUHS help with the planting?

4. Oxbow Park-Jim has edited the Select board meeting draft minutes on April 22. The draft minutes are as follows:

The Oxbow Park was damaged by the recent flooding. The upper deck, where the community gardens and concerts are held, is usable. The lower deck has been damaged. Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance of these areas by planting trees to avoid erosion. Peter Danforth, of Lamoille County Conservation District, spoke in favor of planting a variety of trees and shrubs on the west side of the lower Oxbow deck. Peter presented to the Selectboard in September 2023, a large scale plan to plant trees and shrubs around the entire perimeter and enhance the lower deck. The proposal has been reduced to a small scale project for the east side of the river bank. There is grant money available for the purchase of trees and plants and the maintenance of the area. The bottom line is no cost to the town. There is no permit required to plant the trees. Todd Thomas, Floodplain Officer, spoke about the lower deck as being a flood zone and questioned the planting of trees that would flood again next year. Discussion followed on the impact of trees planted on the lower deck. It was agreed that more comprehensive planning was needed to address the usage of the Oxbow Park. It was agreed to proceed with the plan submitted by Peter Danforth at this time. The Selectboard also agreed that forming a local committee to include the Morristown Soccer Club (who uses the soccer field in the lower terrace) to find an alternative soccer field site should be part of the comprehensive planning process. Motion made by George Cormier to go forward with Peter Danforth's proposal of planting 300 trees on the western side of the lower deck of Oxbow park with the potential of an engineering study. Motion was seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (4/0).

5. Possible American Chestnut Speaker-Ron mentioned that there may be a speaker available to come and talk about Chestnut Trees. We could also consider planting Chestnuts in the Duhamel Pit. Other possible speakers include Shannon Morrison from VTDEC on wetlands.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease, Secretary

Addendum

B

Brent Teillon

May 16, 2024,
12:26 PM (12
days ago)

Arbor Day/Earth Day

We combined these two Days and did a token effort this year.

Both days were celebrated in our window display. On earth day a door banner was hung in the front door entrance to the town office so everyone entering building knew it was Earth Day. Also an additional picture of "Mother Earth" was hung by green up table.

Also an Earth day banner was hung on the fence by the blinking red light that stated "Everyday is Earth Day".

To celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day a community tree was planted by the Noyes House by the "Women of Morristown". Representatives from

Town office were Tricia Follet, community Development; Anna Green, Recreation coordinator; Martha Battle, Macc; two persons from library; Kari Anderson, MCC.

Historical Society unable to make it.

Assisting were Jerry and Brent.

Tree purchased by MCC,

Pictures taken by Gordon Miller from News&Citizen.

Tree has been watered twice but we need to establish a list of people to water tree during spring and summer.

Brent Teillon

Note: the shadbush trees planted in the circle by the Noyes House look very nice. Planted by MACC.

Preliminary Green up Report

Green up Day was another success.

Most of the roads were green up.

(Over 90 miles)

Some still had a little trash but some of it was "fresh" indicating people still throwing trash out of vehicle windows.

We had some support for the clean up of Route 100 but I never got results from Montpelier as to who sent in donations. Had about 9 promises. Some donated but couldn't spare staff to green up.

Sent in 5 1/3 sheets on names for Guinness record. Never heard if it is a record.

Dumpster was overflowing.

Weight and cost not available until they bill us at end of month.

Tires: 53 tires were piled by dumpster when we arrived early Saturday AM. which early MCC crew moved. Some were new tires,

Some with good tread. Also a heavy sand/salt spreader was put in dumpster. These tires and spreader were put there by Morrisville highway crew. They later came back and took back an unknown amount of good tires that should not have been thrown away. This moving of tires made it hard to get an accurate tire count. When we left at 3:00pm Saturday we had 89 tires on site. Residents brought in 26 Tires at \$6.00 each = \$156 plus a dollar donation = \$157.

This money turned into town Clerk's office.

I counted tires Monday and got around 160. Later saw village taking back unknown amount. So I am estimating around 145 tires to dispose.

We gave out over 675 green bags.

PA took 65 and had a lot of students greening up school grounds and adjacent roads. Turtle fur and mental health did a lot.

Anna Green took charge of rail trail and successfully greened up Morristown section. Good job Anna!

Participation was equal to last few years, about same number signed up.

Tires get left in OxBow for a long time. That is not MCC responsibility.

The town road Dept makes tire disposal arrangements .

New tent canopy worked out very good. Coffee, doughnuts, apples.

Clementines , water and lemonade Were available.

The soccer club bottle drive was next door and we all worked well together.

Thanks to all MCC members and other volunteers for your help making this another successful year for Green Up Day Vermont.