

Morristown Conservation Commission

May 15, 2019 Attendees: Dave Stevens, Kristin Connelly, Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Brent Teillon, Richard Sargent

Guest: Ken Bailey, Kristen Sharpless-Stowe Land Trust

Kristen Sharpless Presentation, on Brownsville, Stowe land purchase

Kristen gave a summary of the property and purchase, gave the MCC handouts on the SLT, and thanked the MCC for their donation.

- 75% of the property is forested.

- it was a hill farm until the 1950s.

- it is one of the biggest unprotected private lands in Stowe. VLCT and SLT will hold the conservation easements.

- It was posted by the Story Family

- The SLT was able to purchase it by raising considerable local funds and a big gift from the VT Community Foundation. The scheduled closing and transfer to the state is in August. The total purchase is about 5.75 million dollars. This includes funds for stewardship/maintenance endowment.

- the goal is to donate it to the Putnam State Forest, which is at about 13,000 acres

- No motorized recreation will be allowed except on McCall Pasture Rd. Brownsville forest is a working forest, lands in the forest have aesthetic, wildlife biodiversity and recreational value.

- Brent was able to get local hunting groups to donate about \$9000.

- Kristen advised the MCC to give interested landowners information and tools for land conservation.

Old Business:

- April 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

- Town Forest-Ron has a sketch of the proposed trail work. We hope to contract the stream crossing work by June. Walter O gave Kristen a list of potential trail builders. The VYCC is still interested. We got an estimate for 16 of the correct size of stones (2'x3'x18") for \$1000. This number of stones would be for crossing the stream and the floodplain. We should ask for two bids from interested contractors, one with the rock cost included and one without. Brent send the work to the Hermitage Ridge contractor for an estimate.

- no news from Morrisville Water and Light about Clark Park

- Green-Up no report yet.

New Business

- Next year is the 50th anniversary of Green-Up

- We are considering a trail work day in July instead of a meeting. This would likely be on a weekend.

- We will meet here or in Clark Park for the June meeting but there is conflict with Wednesday night at the Oxbow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Respectively submitted, Jim Pease, Secretary.