

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
~~April 15~~, 2010
May

Members Present: Steve Rae, Jim Pease, Kevin Lane, Dick Sargent

Members Absent: Gert Lepine, Brent Teillon, Ron Stancliff

Guests: Leon Whitcomb

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

The first item on the agenda was review of minutes from the April 2010 meeting. Following review, Dick motioned that they be approved as written. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next, the Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 2009 meeting. Following review, Jim motioned that they be approved as written. Dick seconded this motion and it passed unanimously (with Kevin abstaining because he was not present at that meeting.)

Then came the report from the co-chair – with Steve reporting:

- Green-Up Day – There were over 60 official registrants (more than last year) and the outcome was great. Even the banner on Brooklyn street looked especially good!
- Town Forest – Ray Toolan, County Forester, and Doug Small, local logger, were among the attendees at Monday's Select Board meeting. Doug approached the Select Board to discuss the possibility of logging the Town Forest. Because the current management plan for the Forest dates back to 1988, the Select Board asked Ray to update the plan. Leon Whitcomb suggested to the Select Board that the Conservation Commission participate in this process – a suggestion welcomed by the Select Board. Ray hopes to complete the work this summer.
- Zoning / Airport Business District (ABD) – At a recent meeting, Bill Rossmassler presented draft language such that Prime Ag Soils be treated the same in the ABD as they are in the Sewer Service Marketing Area. This language was reviewed and discussed – but no official action was taken.

Next on the agenda was the matter of paying dues to the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions. Following brief discussion, Dick moved that "they be paid". This motion was seconded by Jim and unanimously approved.

Then the commission continued it's discussion of the wetlands survey. Jim had sent some information about grants to Heidi Krantz – who is willing to support our efforts by editing, coaching, etc. Following discussion, it was agree that:

- The Vermont Watershed (aka License Plant) Grant was a good fit.
- The entire commission would work on the application over the next few months – with Jim taking the lead.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the management plan for the Town Forest. Steve initiated the discussion by noting that he had recently attended a meeting at which Audobon VT representatives introduced the concept of multiple forest uses (wildlife, recreation, etc) vs the narrower goal of maximizing timber yield. The following discussion made clear the Commission's desire to participate in the planning process (as offered by the Select Board). Ideas put forth include

- Making the current plan available for review. (Perhaps Erica Reed could post the current plan on the Town's website)
- Contacting the Johnson Conservation Commission. They are currently working with Ray Toolan on a plan for the Johnson Town Forest. It would be helpful to get a sense of the current work-product, etc.
- See if the *News and Citizen* will run an article informing the community about this project
- Items the plan/inventory might address – beyond timber – include hunting, VAST usage, birding, hiking, biking, skiing, plants, history (cellar holes, etc)

No items were offered for discussion as "old business".

For "new business"

- Steve reported that the Town had received a request to use the Duhamel property for "geocache" - an outdoor activity in which the participants use GPS equipment to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches"). The Commission's opinion was that this request was reasonable and should be approved.
- Kevin notified the Commission that VT Electric Coop plans to apply herbicide on VEC's right of way in Mud City. Kevin's primary concern was possible contamination of the waters in the Kenfield Brook – a pristine brook which is popular with swimmers and anglers as well as a candidate for the State of VT's Class B status (indicating very clean water)

He will continue to monitor the situation and keep the Commission informed.

At 8:20, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane