

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
May 15, 2008

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

Members Absent: None

Guest: Ron Stancliff

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the minutes from the April 2008 meeting. Following review, Jim motioned that we accept the minutes as corrected. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the report from the co-chair. Gert reported that:

- She had been contacted by Anne Heath regarding the plan and time-table for removal of the camp from her land.
- She has contacted the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) about the former Fournier farm.

Steve reported that:

- He, Gert, and Kevin met with the Development Review Board (DRB) on May 8th (at the invitation of DRB co-chair Dave Silverman). The two bodies had a "good discussion" with the DRB noting that the Commission would bring some additional expertise to the decision making process. Also, the DRB encouraged the Commission to suggest conditions (stipulations) on applications.
- He and Jim attended a meeting on the Town Sewer Service Area (TSSA) involving members of Planning Commission (PC), Select Board, Village Trustees and LCPC. Of note is the fact that the State Act 250 Commission has approved expansion of the physical plant but not the service area because there has been no public process to define the service area. Additionally, the 250 Commission's ruling expressed concern about the process by which the PC preserves prime agricultural land.
- Green-Up day went well. There was a higher turnout – both in terms of number of groups signed-up and bags distributed – than in the prior year.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the Mud City Loop redistricting. The PC's schedule allows for the possibility of discussing this item at it's 5/20/08 meeting. Amy reported that she recently hosted a meeting of neighbors to discuss the process. The group is currently raising money so that they may hire a planner to guide the process and draft bylaws. Amy will contact the PC to update them on the group's activities and timeframes before the 5/20 meeting.

Next the Commission discussed renewal of its membership in the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. Following discussion, it was decided that would renew our membership.

Next on the agenda was the TSSA, with the following items being discussed

- In-fill and sprawl – Survey's conducted by the PC and CC show strong support for in-fill and opposition to sprawl. These concepts must remain in the forefront of future discussions regarding the Service Area.
- Ownership of lines – The question of who would own the lines was raised. If the Town will own the lines, then the Service Area would create on-going financial obligations for the Town - in which case the Town itself should have a much greater level of participation in the planning process.
- Public process – The process by which the currently proposed Service Area has been created has had limited public input. The CC hopes that a process involving more public discussion will occur before any final recommended action is taken.

The Commission then discussed the process by which the camp on the Heath parcel will be removed. Steve inquired about Town support for the project. It is likely that the Town will provide a truck to remove debris and unlikely that the Fire Department will handle the burn. Jim suggested that we contact the Court Diversion program to see if they may be able to provide some volunteers to support this effort. The Commission will be 5/18 to tour the site and discuss logistics.

For old business

- Amy reported that
 - She is progressing with the agricultural land inventory.
 - She recently toured farms in Illinois to learn about sustainable agriculture.
- Steve reported that
 - He has yet to contact VLT regarding opportunities in Lamoille county.
 - Bruce Tomlinson is willing to provide data on the wind tower.

For new business, Amy reported that she attended the PC's meeting at which candidates for the downtown traffic flow study presented their qualifications for and approach to the project. One group had a very technical orientation while the other was stronger on "vision" and "community input". The PC selected the latter.

At 8:55, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane