

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
April 17, 2008

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

Members Absent: Amy Walker

Guest: Ron Stancliff

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

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

Then the Commission reviewed the minutes from the December 2007 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 on recent DRB conditional use hearings on parcels located in the Mud City vicinity and reminded Commissions of the upcoming site walks on May 3rd.

Steve reported that:

- We received a request from Heidi Krantz – Town Coordinator – to review replies to the Planning Commission's RFP for a downtown traffic study.
- He attended a recent meeting on the Rail Trail that featured a presentation by Alan Robertson – Civil Engineer. Steve was nominated by the Select Board to serve as the Lamoille County representative on a committee that steers trail development.
- He attended a recent DRB. Of note was the fact that:
 - The applicant was told (by the DRB) that he needed to obtain approval from the State regarding wetlands.
 - The DRB invited the Commission to an upcoming meeting (May 8th) to discuss how the 2 bodies might work together.

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that individuals would serve in the following capacities:

- Gert – Co-chair
- Steve – Co-chair
- Jim – Liaison to the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Treasurer
- Amy – Records Manager
- Kevin – Secretary

The Commission then continued its discussion of the Wetlands Conditional Use Determination (CUD) process. Jim noted that South Burlington has implemented a Zoning Ordinance to protect Class 3 wetlands. As part of this process, they hired a

consultant to map Class 3 wetlands. Following discussion, it was decided that we should discuss a similar measure for Morristown at an upcoming meeting. Also, the Commission discussed a pending Subdivision application on Mud City Loop adjacent to a parcel with Wetlands (which required obtaining a CUD). According to Gert's recollection this parcel was "condemned" by the State (because of wetlands). Jim will see if there is any information on file with the State that supports this recollection.

Next, the Commission discussed it's upcoming meeting with the DRB. Items suggested for discussion include:

- Asking how we might support and inform their efforts
- Discuss changes to the Zoning Bylaws that might make their job easier. (DRB members have occasionally informed people attending hearings that they sometimes must approve applications that they'd like not to approve because the bylaws contain no basis for denial)
- Discussing the overwhelming theme of "small rural community" voiced in the Planning Commission's survey and zoning bylaws that would help preserve these qualities.
- Discussing areas where there is a "gap" between the Town Plan and Zoning Bylaws – such as stream buffer development and development on "steep" slopes.

Next the commission discussed the invitation it received recently to attend a meeting on expansion of the Town Sewer. Steve and Jim will attend on the Commission's behalf. They will state that the Commission supports in-fill over sprawl. (The commission has written letters to the PC supporting in-fill and discouraging development of town and village "gateways"). They will also note that the currently proposed Town Service Marketing Agreement map extends into areas where townspeople oppose development (based upon the Commission's and Planning Commission's surveys)

The Commission then discussed the potential value of contacting the Vermont Land Trust to discuss potential local projects. Following discussion, Steve and Gert were granted permission to contact VLT.

For old business – Steve reminded the commission that we need to begin formulating a plan to clean up the Heath parcel. It was suggested that we contact the Fire Department to discuss procedures for removing the camp structure.

For new business – Jim shared information about an upcoming seminar for Low Impact Development.

At 9:15, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Kevin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane