

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
April 17, 2003

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

Members Absent: Billy Coster

Guests: Ron Stancliff

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM

The first order of business was the review of the March 2003 minutes. Kevin did not bring printed copy of the minutes. Therefore, they will be reviewed at the May, 2003 meeting.

Next, the commission elected its officers for the upcoming year. John motioned that Steve and Gert serve as co-chairmen. Kevin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. John motioned that Jim serve as treasurer. Gert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jim motioned that John serve as naturalist. Gert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Finally, Gert nominated Kevin for secretary. Jim seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Steve gave an update on the recent Selectboard meeting. The Selectboard approved the reappointments of Jim and John. Also, the Selectboard indicated its intention to approve, at its next meeting, a Selectboard resolution suggested by the Commission for the establishment of a separate Conservation Commission account and the handling of funds related to that account. (Prior to the our next meeting, Steve and Kevin intend to draft bylaw revisions in accord with this resolution.)

Kevin gave an update on the recent Planning Commission (PC) meeting - at which the PC discussed its plans to review the Zoning bylaws. The PC asked this conservation to suggest potential "subzones" of the current Rural Residential Agriculture considering land usage, land features with a consistent application of any such "standards" town-wide. Steve passed out a map which shows the distribution of all structures in Lamoille County, including Morristown, with the idea it might inform the subzone discussion.

Jim gave an update on the Wilkens Street Ravine / Green-up Day. Physically, the situation is dire. He noted that condition of ravine has deteriorated dramatically in the last year. The railroad embankment is failing and soil is eroding. And short-term outlook for remedy is bleak given the manner in which Transportation funds are now being handled. With respect to Green-up Day, a crew of 20 will work the ravine.

Next, the commission discussed the potential pursuit / support of B1 classification for the Kenfield Brook. Jim noted that the recently concluded lab work indicates that the brook currently meets the standard for B1. The question of "why support the effort" was asked and discussed. Reasons for supporting the effort include the fact that the brook currently supports a lot of recreation (swimming and fishing) and that there is general value in maintaining its quality. The question was asked – Given the fact that the brook is in good shape now, is there any need to do anything (different)? One rationale was that land use changes subject to review and permitting processes would have to address the B1 classification, which would help provide an important safeguard for maintaining the brook's water quality. Other questions asked were "what's the downside of such a classification"? And how would the classification "effect those who own land adjacent to the brook (or land with lesser streams which feed the Kenfield)?" Jim said that Jim Ryan (VT ANR Water Quality) is willing to meet with us to discuss the classification program in general and to answer our questions. Jim will try to setup this meeting for May 20 @ 6:30. (Such a meeting would be in lieu of regularly scheduled meeting and therefore would require posting of notices indicating the time, location, and purpose this special meeting). Following this meeting, the Commission can discuss potential pursuit of the program in an informed manner. (Meanwhile, Jim Pease said he could obtain the land parcel information for parcels bordering the Kenfield.)

We also briefly discussed whether a need existed to prioritize projects the Commission felt were worthwhile to address. Due to lack of time, this agenda item was postponed.

At 8:47 PM, John motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Steve seconded this motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane