

Morristown Conservation Commission

April 15, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:34 pm. Meeting was held via Zoom on-line.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon, Jennifer Andrews, Jess Zehngut, and David Stevens

Guests: None

The March meeting minutes were approved. Meeting minutes will be reviewed 10 days after they are sent or revised by the Chair at the next meeting.

Old Business:

- (1) Town Forest** – Jim contacted the Northwoods Center and Dusty May sent a cost estimate for two weeks of a 4-person trail crew with MCC guidance for \$6350/week. We have about a month to decide and the crew is available in the fall months. The Town Forest Parking lot will cost about \$18-20,000. FPR will need about a month for approval and permitting and the FPR Stewardship Committee will need about a month to approve the proposal. Brent stated he would like to wait until May to make a decision on the trail crew.

We can get volunteers depending on where/when we have meetings in the Town Forest. The first week of trail work will be Saturday May 8. The Brook Trail needs at least a 16' Bridge on it plus there are muddy areas needing corduroy. Kristen will reach out to the PA Athletics director to see if student athletes can help carry pressure treated wood into the bridge site.

- (2) Slope Zoning**– We have until September to correct the zoning on slope protection. Ron is going to show Judy Bickford on the Select board what are different steep slope descriptions. Ron sent town zoning examples on slope protection to the select board. We are one of a few towns locally that does not protect its steep slopes. Ron and Kristen will suggest appropriate language for the zoning. Kristen felt that the steep slope zoning is not just antidevelopment, but it is actually for Natural Resource protection and the language should reflect that. We should also review what other towns using in their steep slope zoning language.

- (3) Floodplain Language in the Town Plan** – Staci Pomeroy sent a letter to the Select board, Planning Council and Todd Thomas commenting on the language Todd stated about why the Town Plan would not have the Floodplain language suggested by LCPC and others. The letter may be discussed at the Select board hearing on April 19 along with the ATV discussion and the new board member proposal. Kristen thought that the Select board may have made a commitment not to put the river corridor language in the Town Plan. That may complicate the issue for the Select board as a number of downtown merchants want the Town Plan approved to reinstate the Downtown Designation for Morrisville. At

the April 19 Select board meeting Dan Lindley stated they would not to put the river corridor language in the Town Plan.

New Business:

- (1) Green-Up** – Brent received 3 calls from groups that want to work on Green-Up: MSI, East Meadow School, and a clean up of the Earl Grey Road dumping that was in the News and Citizen. People are not signing up yet at the Town Clerk's office. Dick has talked to WLVB but he needs to do that again. The News & Citizen had a good article. W&L will not hang the banner until a policy about banners has been approved by the Village Trustees. Jenn will talk to Todd Thomas about whether the banner could go somewhere else without a permit. The calendar sign up for MCC members is in place. Jen, Jess, Brent and Ron have volunteered. The dumpster will be in the Copley Parking Lot from Friday April 30-Monday May 3. K&S will pick up tires at \$5/tire. We will charge \$3 and cover the remainder.
- (2) Parking Area at Greaves Conservation Land** – Jim pointed out that this is a good area for wildlife crossing, and we shouldn't build a parking area or trails for that reason although there is some new development already happening in the area. Dave and Brent felt that the wildlife would cross the area even with the development.
- (3) April 30** – is Arbor Day, the Mountain-River School would be interested in planting trees and a walk in the Town Forest.
- (4) Noise** - Kristen would like the Town Plan to have language about noise pollution in the village. She will work on getting some draft language and sending it to Todd.
- (5) ATV Meeting** – the ATV Meeting for Silver Ridge Rd is Monday 19th at 6pm. Kristen has done a lot of research on ATVs and encourages members to attend the upcoming meeting to help voice the concerns discussed by our group.
- (6) Conservation Fund Subcommittee** – A conservation subcommittee was formed including Jess, Jen and Ron.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary

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