

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
March 20, 2008

Members Present: Steve Rae, Kevin Lane, Jim Pease

Members Absent: Gert Lepine, Amy Walker

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

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

Next on the agenda was the report from the co-chair, with Steve offering the following:

- Town Plan – The Town Plan was approved by the Select Board.
- Planning Commission (PC) – The PC has published a schedule for Bylaw revision – with the Rural Residential / Agricultural district (which includes Mud City) schedule for late May / early June.
- Funding – A CD which is part of the Commission's Fund reached maturity and was rolled-over.
- Sewer Plant Expansion – The State Act 250 District Commission recently held a hearing on the proposed sewer plant expansion. Attendees included the PC and a subset of the Village Trustees. Additionally, the Lamoille County Planning Commission submitted written commentary which expressed a number of concerns about the proposed expansion. The PC expressed surprise when a new, previously unseen (by the PC) map portraying the proposed "sewer market" area was unveiled and indicated that the proposed service had not been developed via a public process. The District Commission sent a set of questions to Morrisville Water & Light based upon comments made at the hearing.
- Other – The Commission recently received a copy of survey prepared by a consortium of conservation-related organizations. Steve was given approval to participate.

The next item on the agenda was the commission's budget – specifically renewal of the Commission's internet web domain. Given the current high-level of service provided by the town for the web-site and the lack of time the commission itself has to development of the web-site, it was decided that we would no longer pay for a separate site.

Then the commission discussion publicity for the Big Tree Contest. Suggestions included asking:

- The *News & Citizen* to print another article with pictures of some noteworthy tree specimens
- The Town Clerk's office to include written material about the contest with the Green-Up sign-up package
- The Peoples Academy Environmental Club to participate and "spread the word"

The commission then continued it's discussion of the Wetlands Conditional Use Determination process. Following discussion, it was agreed that we'd look into the possibility of a zoning bylaw which provides the Commission with the opportunity to

comment on applications (as other town bodies currently do). Jim will research the manner in which other municipalities current handle this.

Next, the commission discussed the manner in which it might participate in the zoning of the proposed Mud City District. Jim suggested that the residents of the neighborhood consider obtaining funding (municipal planning grant ; private contributions, etc) so that a professional planner may support their efforts. Following discussion, it was agreed that the commission would take a supporting (not lead) role – offering general suggestions, acting as a sounding-board, etc.

Then, the commission discussed preparation for Green-Up day – with the following assignments:

- Steve
 - Contact *News & Citizen*
 - Sandwich board
 - Contact Solid Waste District regarding tent
- Amy – Banner
- Gert – Food
- Jim – Map and signs
- Kevin
 - Contact Peoples Academy Environment Club
 - Research scrap metal hauling

No items of “old business” were discussed.

For “new business”, Jim noted that the Town had recently had a tree inventory performed and would like to review the results. Steve suggested that Heidi Krantz may have the information.

At 8:30, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane