

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
March 19, 2009

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

Members Absent: None

Guest: Ron Stancliff, Brent Teillon

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

The first order of business was the review of minutes from the February 2009 meeting. Following review, Jim motioned that we accept the minutes as written. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

The commission then heard from Ron Stancliff. Ron is planning to clean-up the Joe Pond parcel and is looking for support from the Commission. Ron will provide the equipment (tractor, dumpsters, etc) and is looking for others to provide labor. Steve will contact the Stowe Land Trust (SLT) to see if they can recruit volunteers. (SLT holds the conservation easement on this land.) Jim will contact the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp. Also, we'll publicize the need for volunteers as part of our Green-Up promotion.

Additionally, Ron indicated that he will email the Select Board stating his and Brent's interest in becoming members of the commission.

Next on the agenda was the report from the co-chair – with Steve reporting:

- Green-Up – The Select Board has officially appointed Steve and the Commission to coordinate Green-Up day activities. Further, Steve has received the press releases from the state Green-Up organization.
- Membership – Ron and Brent went to a recent Select Board meeting to express their interest in membership with the Commission.
- VT League of Cities and Towns will conduct seminars on stimulus spending.
- Heath Property – Steve was notified by Kate Willard, VT Forests and Park Land Administrator, that the state is ready to close on the Heath property.
- Planning Commission (PC) – At its March 3, 2009 meeting the PC agreed to change the language in the proposed Prime Ag Soil Bylaw to specifically designate the Morristown Conservation Commission Fund as the default recipient of mitigation funds.

Next on the agenda was a report on the PC's 3/17 presentation of its proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments to the Select Board. Kevin attended the meeting and reported that

- Bill Rossmassler – LCPC – presented the proposed bylaw changes after summarizing the process the PC had followed (inputs, goals, deliberations, etc)
- Various Select Board members responded to the presentation – questioning the validity of the PC's process and the appropriateness of limitations contained in the bylaws (store sizes, the degree to which retail is permitted in the proposed Business Enterprise District, etc)

Following discussion, it was decided that Kevin will contact Bill Henchy, PC Chairman, to learn about the PC's reaction to the meeting, PC's planned response, and what the Commission might do to support the PC. Steve will draft a letter to the Select Board stating the Commission's position.

The Commission then discussed election of officers for the upcoming year. Following discussion, Dick motioned that people continue in their present role (Gert and Steve as co-chair ; Jim – Treasurer and liaison to the State Agency of Natural Resources ; Kevin - Secretary). Kevin seconded this motion – which passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was membership. Kevin reported that he had contacted Rachel Duffy. Rachel attended the Commission's December 2008 meeting, is interested in learning more about the Commission's operation, and asked to be invited to the next meeting. Additionally, Dick motioned that we formally nominate Ron and Brent for membership with the Commission. Jim seconded this motion – which passed unanimously following discussion. Steve will notify the Select Board of this action.

For Green-Up day, it was again agreed that each member would retain their traditional role. (Gert – refreshments ; Jim – maps, signage, and publicity ; Kevin – signage and publicity; Steve – administration.)

No items of "old business" or "new business" were offered for discussion.

At 8:05, Gert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane