

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
March 18, 2010

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

Members Absent: Dick Sargent, Brent Teillon

Guests: Leon Whitcomb, Adrienne McFarland, Dori Barton, Michael Lew
Smith, Jeff Parsons

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

The first order of business was a presentation by Arrowwood Environmental on wetlands inventories. The 1st phase is a remote inventory – performed using existing data (aerial photos, digital data, soil data etc) – which provides more accurate boundary determination of existing wetlands and identification of potentially unmapped Class 3 wetlands. They can also remotely determine type, function, and values. The next step is a “drive by” – which validates the results of the remote work. The 3rd step is field work – during which they revise / correct boundaries, make sure type is correct, and gather information not available remotely. Results can be provided in a format such that it can be used by standard Geographical Information System. Additionally, results can be shared with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. As a follow-up to tonight’s meeting, they will submit a breakdown on costs for the various steps and provide information on potential funding sources.

The next item on the agenda was review of minutes from the February 2010 meeting. Following review, Ron motioned that they be approved as written. Jim seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Then came the report from the co-chair – with Steve reporting:

- Catamount Trail – We received an information packet from the Catamount Trail Association. Steve will contact them to inform them that we are also serving, on an interim basis, as the Trails Committee.
- Planning – The PC recently held a meeting on the proposal to establish a new Airport Business District. The objective of this district is to provide for “light industrial and business activities that are compatible and complimentary to the airport and that do not conflict with the Central Business District with minimal detracting from the scenic quality of the corridor”. Proposed permitted uses are small accessory structures, Forest, and Agricultural. Conditional Uses include a wide range of businesses.
- Town Meeting – The Commission’s table featured photos and info on the Joe’s Pond property and a poster with maps/photos of lands protected with Commission assistance.

For Membership – it was announced that Jim is willing to serve another term. Steve will send a letter to the Select Board requesting that Jim be reappointed.

Next on the agenda was discussion of Prime Ag Soil (PAS) protection. The current Zoning Bylaw has language to protect PAS in a specific zone. The proposed Airport

Business District suggests protection by reference (to Section's 300-348) – however the language is not clear and, arguably, contradictory. Steve had drafted a letter to the Planning Commission (PC) suggesting that the PC work with interested parties to improve the language such that it is readily applicable to additional zones. Following review, discussion, and modification of Steve's draft, Ron motioned that we "send to letter as modified". Kevin seconded this motion which was unanimously approved.

For "old business", Steve gave an update on the status of situations where landowners have approached the Commission to discuss land conservation.

- Coshoff – Steve will try to contact Karen this weekend
- Struhsacker – Mark expressed interest in being part of a larger project that would include the land between his and Lepine's (Rowworth?).
- Greaves – Sharon recently contacted the commission to renew discussions.

For "new business", the following items were discussed

- Potential rezoning of the Business Enterprise District in support of Rock Art's desire to have a restaurant and expanded retail.
- Upcoming Act 250 hearing on an application for a quarry on the Cochran Road. The quarry is located in well-head protection zone. Ron and Kevin will try to attend the hearing (3/23 and 7 PM)

At 8:43, Ron motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Steve seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane