

Morristown Conservation Commission
February 17, 2022

The meeting began at 6:35. It was held at the Tegu Building and available via Google Meet.

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Brent Teillon, Jenifer Andrews, Dave Stevens, Richard Sargent
Kristen Connelly, Mariah Keagy (online), Jess Zehngut, Jim Pease
Guests: Theresa Snow

A motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes with one correction. Ron will resend the corrected minutes. Meeting minutes will be reviewed 10 days after they are sent or revised by the Chair at the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. **Community Value Mapping** – Mariah discussed the idea of community planning for natural resource conservation. What are the core values that people have? What do they want to conserve? We discussed the earlier proposal to have a large map at Town Meeting and use sticky notes to identify areas to conserve, good views, for recreation. This could now be a virtual event since the Town Meeting is canceled due to COVID. Should this effort be a long- or short-term effort? This effort could lead to purchases if the .5 cent measure passes. We need to set up a kick-off committee (Jen, Kristen, and Mariah) and set the dates for the virtual event or attend a lot of public events this spring-fall-summer. At public meetings we can use the LCPC big map with the conservation lands on it. Meetings like Wednesday Night Live, Greenup Day. We could also set up a display at the Town Office in the front window.
2. **Morrisville Village Lands** – Ron discussed the 4-5 parcels he would like to discuss with the Village Trustees soon on March 16th. He would like the Village to transfer these lands to the Town to avoid paying taxes.
 1. Bugbee - has habitat value and SLT would assist in taking the land if it were transferred to the Town.
 2. Lake Lamoille – 25 acres with industrial zoning but should be conservation land with a possible campsite for Lamoille River canoeists.
 3. Darling Rd – 52 acres that surround the well head protection area and aquifer on Rte. 15A. The Village pays the Town \$1100/yr. in taxes.
 4. Bridge St - 18.6 acres with a proposed use of a walking trail from Morristown Corners to Bridge St. Kristen pointed out that the new Town Plan discusses studying the transfer of these parcels. A motion was made to have Ron meet with the trustees on the 16th to discuss the transfer of the 4 parcels to the Town for tax relief and public use. Brent seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Morristown Conservation Bylaw – follow up discussion after meeting Etienne Hancock** - the current bylaw is on page 27-30 of the zoning regulations. The purpose is to improve the conservation requirements of a subdivision. Should we propose a better vision statement? The Stowe regulations define specifically what is an environmentally sound subdivision. The Cambridge regulations provide more specifics on including open space in the layout of the subdivision and that it should have a specific use and not just

be leftover property(ies). In Morristown trails are not a specific use when designating open space in the bylaw. Hyde Park tries to give credit/bonuses for houses it they are architecturally green. Morristown could improve on their bonuses.

Kristen is willing to draft comments and present them to the Planning Council.

New Business:

1. **Trail Signage** – Dave and Brent met with Great Big Graphics. Updating/improving our Town Forest signage would cost about \$1200. The letters are 1.75" and the signs would be green/white. A motion was made to have Dave/Brent continue to work on trail signage with the company. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Big Tree Contest** – Stowe Land Trust sent their ideas for a contest. It was done online. However, the Morristown Library is willing to hold the contest with us, also Fran Sladyk will help. A motion was made to have the contest with the library. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **TH 43** – there was some discussion about erosion on TH43. No action was taken. The trail maintenance is the responsibility of VAST.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Pease