

Morristown Conservation Commission

February 17, 2021

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Meeting was held via Zoom on-line.

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

Guests: Mariah Keaghy

The January 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:

Town Forest – 100 copies of the trail manual were made by the Town Clerk because the box at the Beaver Meadow Trailhead was empty. Dave will be making frames for maps for the entrance area. Dave may build them this spring. We need a topo map of the Town Forest between the trail head and Beaver Meadow with the multi-use trails on it. Jim volunteered to make the map. Mariah has GPS tracks for it.

Town web site – we need to write something for the town web site according to Kristen. We should include materials about our mission. The Town is willing to improve the web site and Jess volunteered to write something.

Photo Contest – we should try and get as many photos as possible of natural areas around Town. River Arts will help and will take photos. Kristen showed a google form for a photo contest. Youth participation is important. We need to figure out a date and who will be the judge(s). Jennifer talked to Paul Spera and they will donate \$200 for a gift card to local businesses. River Arts wants a \$100 cash prize for first place.

Town Forest Parking Lot - Brent and Dave are working on a complete proposal having already submitted the preproposal. Dimensions, drainage, gravel surface details need to be worked out. The sooner they can submit it the sooner the Stewardship Committee will review it.

Inventory of Conserved Areas by the Town - Brent talked to Todd Thomas and Fran Sladyk about this. Frans knows about the areas. He would make a file of permanently conserved lands from the Town subdivision rules. Fran would give us the Butternut Farm 25% discount and he would update it on an as-needed basis. Brent made a motion to hire Fran S to create a map file of the permanently conserved areas by the Town subdivision rules. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Mariah Keaghy was interviewed. She is interested in community trails and land use. She will need to send a letter to Dan Lindley if she is interested in being on the commission. There was a discussion about creating more trails in the Town Forest, at the Bugbee Spring property and at Clark Park. She will sit in on one more meeting before deciding.

Summer VYCC Community Crew – Brent has a trail work plan for the Town Forest which he will send. Do we want to contribute to funding for a community crew for one week of crew time in the Town Forest? We will vote in March. Jim will talk to DJ Masi with the Labor Dept and Justin Geibel at VYCC about a Morristown Community Crew.

Randolph Rd development – James Neuland's daughter is concerned about the proposed development. Ron believes the covenants are critical to the discussion. Todd Thomas needs to talk to the civil engineer for the developer. Ron will ask Dave Yacovone to also get involved. A new law effective July 1 states that new covenants may not interfere with development, but old covenants would stay in effect.

New zoning and steep slope setback - Ron made a motion that the MCC notify the Town, and Todd Thomas, to put the slope restriction back in the zoning but change it to 25% slopes, from 20% slopes. Jennifer went to the meeting also. Tyler Mumley needs to explain his rationale for striking the language. Jennifer agrees with Ron. Brent seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.
Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary