

Mary Ann Wilson

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Morristown Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes for

February 17, 2005

Members Present: Gert Lepine, Steve Rae, John Lepinski, Jim Pease, Kevin Lane

Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

The first order of business was the review of the December 2004 minutes. Following review, a revision and 2 (typographical) corrections were accepted. With these revisions incorporated, Jim motioned that the minutes be accepted as revised. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Also noted was the fact that there was no January 2005 meeting due to lack of quorum.

Next was the report from the co-chair, including:

- Steve noted that on February 8, 2005 he and Gert joined members of the Stowe Land Trust (SLT) and Tom Jackman, Stowe Town Planner, in a site walk of the properties that Ron Stancliff would like to conserve. In general, Steve felt the SLT was interested in these lands. Their (SLT's) next meeting is February 17, 2005 and it is possible that they may decide whether or not proceed with the conservation of these properties at that meeting. Steve said he would follow-up with Heather Furman (SLT Executive Director) during the upcoming week.
- Steve met recently with the new Town Administrator, Francis Taginski. During their meeting, Steve shared with Francis the Intermin Guidelines for Town Forest Usage which the Commission has drafted. Francis indicated that he'd like the opportunity to further review and comment on the proposed guidelines. Following discussion, it was decided that the Commission is perfectly appropriate to grant this request and consider his suggestions.
- Gert shared with a Commission an article pertaining to Joe & Molly (of Joe's Pond and Molly's Bog) noting that it would be worthwhile to share this with the Stowe Land Trust to give them a sense of the Stancliff property's historical significance.
- Gert also noted that she had met recently with a couple of Wolcott residents who are considering conservation of some land and are interested in forming a Conservation Commission in Wolcott. Gert wondered if it would be appropriate to invite these people to a meeting (of ours). Following discussion, it was agreed that, in the interest of promoting conservation regionally, it would be

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appropriate to have these interested individuals attend one of our meetings.

Next the commission discussed a couple of items pertaining to expenditure of funds from the Commission's general operating budget.

- Our membership in the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) needs to be renewed. Dues for the membership are \$60 - but Virginia Rasch (AVCC Executive Director) has asked that members consider an additional donation (perhaps \$40) to support the AVCC's efforts. The commission then proceeded to discuss the value received from AVCC - the newsletter, the annual meeting, the opportunity it provides to meet with other town's Conservation Commission members, and Virginia's personal involvement reviewing the commission's draft Guidelines for Conservation Commission Fund Usage. Following this discussion, Kevin motioned that we "renew our membership and provide an additional donation of \$40 in recognition of 'value received' and in support of AVCC's mission". Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.
- Next the commission discussed acquisition of a GPS unit. It was noted that such a device would facilitate property description, trail mapping, etc. And it appears that the town does not yet have such a device. Following discussion, John motioned that "Steve be authorized to requisition purchase of a GPS unit if it is compatible with Mark Leonard's and Karyl Fuller's mapping software and its price does not exceed \$400". Jim seconded this motion - and following discussion - it passed unanimously.

Next the Commission discussed participation in the upcoming Town Meeting. Following discussion, it was decided that we'd have a table with the standard photos, maps, etc.

The commission then discussed the Town Forest Management Plan. Steve noted that on a recent visit to the forest he found one of the stakes which locates a corner in the boundary. And Gert opined that some of the plantations should be thinned. Also, it was noted that Ray Toolan had not contacted any commissioners to accompany him on his field work. By way of follow-up:

- Jim will review the CD Ray provided to gather information about lot lines (boundaries) and any pertinent historical information.
- Steve will contact Ray to discuss the field work.

By way new business:

- Steve shared with the Commission an article reporting the fact that a permit granted by the Morristown Development Review Board had been overturned by the Vermont Environmental Court upon appeal by the Morrisville Water & Light Department for failing to consider a subdivision's potential impact on water quality.
- The completeness (or lack thereof) the town's wetlands inventory was discussed. As a first step toward understanding the inventory's completeness, Jim said he'd obtain a copy of the State's map and John volunteered to contact Mark Leonard to obtain a copy of the Town's map.

At 8:34, Kevin motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gert seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Lane