

Morristown Conservation Commission

January 20, 2021

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

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease, Richard Sargent, Kristen Connelly, Brent Teillon, Jennifer Andrews, Jess Zehngut

The December 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:

1. Ron went to the SB meeting. The petition for the land conservation fund is dead. We believe we have \$63,000 or \$30,000 in the fund account. Dick will find out. The SB would like us to spend any existing funds before asking for additional funds. The current projects could use the funds including the Bryan Pond parking lot. Jennifer stated that Kristen had done a lot of work on the petition and we should know how to do it for the next time.
2. Demars Trail – there has been no response from Sonny Demars yet. Next month we should hear from the Village/W&L. We responded to the BJAMs concerns with a letter.
3. LCPC island-the 1/29/61 quitclaim describes how the island can be used by LCPC. The 1854 deed describes the land dimension. Should the Town accept the land? Brent and Ron walked the site and it is about 1 acre, steep and full of Hemlock trees. Brent said there is no known ROW to it. Jennifer and Jim suggested making it a town owned natural area. A motion was made to discuss this in May after a site visit. I don't believe the motion was voted on.

New Business

1. Forest Pamphlet - Dave said we are running out of the pamphlet with the trails map. Kristen had sent everyone the master so anyone can print it. Ron has made a 4x4' map on wood. We could have better signage made by LUHS as they did the first signs. We are planning on work with F&P on a kiosk. The kiosk will be 40"x48" and it could be up to 80" tall. No decision was made yet.
2. We need to update MCC info on the Town web site. It should have a Town Forest article and map, Green-up information and other land conservation or project information. Kristen will try and find out who maintains the site. Kristen will talk to Trish about have a photo contest to improve the photos currently on the Town web site.
3. Bryan Pond parking lot – the existing lot is on state land. We are proposing a 15 car parking lot. Dave and Brent wrote a preproposal and are having someone prepare maps for it. The preproposal is due in February and if accepted a full proposal is due later. Brent will make sure the Town knows about it. We could some of the conservation funds for this work. Brent will ask Dan if we can also use Town labor and/or materials.

Member Report

Ron and his surveyor survey Muddy Brook in the Town Forest. Ron has ordered some apple trees for wildlife for the forest.

Jennifer went through the Town Plan to see where MCC should be included. Unfortunately, the plan was just approved so changes would not appear in the plan in the new plan until about 2028.

We should make a sign about the dangers of crossing the stone steps in the winter at Kenfield Brook in the Town Forest

Kristen heard that the ATV issue was very much alive and the Mud City group will not be submitting a petition for a Town Meeting. Shap Smith is the lawyer for the Mud City group. We can call a special town meeting anytime with the Planning Council. Brent said he would talk to Dan and report on the conversation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease

Secretary