

Morristown Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2012

Meeting opened at 6:31pm

Attending: Steve Rae, Dick Sargent, Brent Teillon, Ron Stancliff, Jim Pease

Guest: Dave Stevens, Town Tree Warden

December meeting minutes-reviewed and approved with one abstention.

Town Forest Discussion with Dave Stevens

Dave visited the Town Forest and reminded us we need to remember it is public land and first and foremost we should protect the land and protect the operation. He said everything cut should be marked timber and we should get bids for the marked timber only. We should have a performance bond and time limits on the cutting activity. He believes we should hire a consultant to over see the operation; the consultant typically gets 10% of the sale. The consultant would designate where the roads and landings are, conduct the bid process, mark the trees, oversee the contract provisions and insure that the state best management practices to protect water quality are followed. He thought it was better to be paid upfront by the logger before cutting starts and a performance bond of a percentage of the bid price be held in escrow in order to protect the Town from non-payment. MCC should prepare a consultant request for proposals and have the consultants provide the terms to MCC via this RFP. The RFP should have a map designating the property lines, roads, streams and other environmental characteristics.

Dave said the timber market is down 30% right now and we may want to wait and see if the market goes up.

MCC needs to notify VAST that the logging may have an impact on use of the VAST trail thru the forest.

The Committee agreed that it would be a good idea to keep Dave involved with the logging sale and will ask him to come back when the process gets further along. Dave agreed to come back.

Chair Report

Steve reported that Ray Toolan is still working on the forest management plan and that he had received a note from Ray. Steve believes we should let Dan Lindley know we need to hire a consultant per Dave S's advice. Brent thought we should let Ray know we may hire a consultant so that Ray can focus only on the management plan.

There is a bill in the legislature (House bill #218) that could drastically change the state's bottle bill. Green-Up Vermont sent a note requesting that concerned citizens contact their legislators.

Steve announced that he is considering running for the Select board to take Dave Yacovone's seat.

Town Forest

Ron would like to upgrade/remark the Town Forest property line and would like to use the Boy Scouts to do the work. Steve thinks we need to be cognizant of adjacent landowners and should inform them of this activity. There needs to be further discussion before the marking proceeds.

New Business

Jim met with Gar Anderson about some possible trail collaboration with the Stowe Conservation Commission. The SCC would like to build more trails in the Sterling Forest area and connect them with trails in Morristown. The SCC may propose a recreational trails grant in the future and would like support from MCC. One trail would cross the town line between the Sterling Forest valley and the Beaver Meadow valley.

Old Business

The request for a grant for signage for the Town Forest should be decided shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Jim Pease
Secretary