

Morristown Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
January 16, 2003

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

Guests: Gary Greaves, Siri Rooney, Sharon Rowell, Eileen Toomey

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM

The first order of business was the review of the December 2002 meeting minutes. Kevin forgot to bring printed copies of the minutes to meeting, so the Commission was unable to review and approve them. Kevin will distribute the December 2002 minute via email "immediately".

Gert gave an update on fund raising for the Zeisberg property. 100% of the necessary funds have been collected and deposited with the Town Clerk.

Eileen Toomey attended the meeting to give the Commission an update on the Water Quality Testing project. Eileen gave an overview of the data and volunteered to draft the final report (which must be submitted in order to receive final payment). Jim will work with Eileen to finalize the report.

The Committee reviewed a report of it's 2002 activities. The report had been prepared for inclusion in the Town Report. All agreed that the report was substantially complete and accurate.

Steve gave an update on the project to inventory town resources. He spent a day with Gert who shared her knowledge of land ownership in the Mud City area. He has updated one map to show land usage - conserved lands and partially completed current use land. A separate map shows parcels by ownership (state, town, country, church, cemetery, etc). A third map of the region (focusing on the Worcester range) shows land elevations.

With respect to the questionnaire, Heidi is working on a business survey for downtown. She hopes to attend our February 2003 meeting and activity pertaining to the questionnaire is on hold until then.

The Commission briefly discussed the upcoming Green-Up day. Paul McGinley has budgeted some funds for related expenditures. Steve will follow-up with Michelle Swift to see if she will continue to serve as Coordinator.

We discussed upcoming events involving other town bodies, including:

- Jan 20 meeting with Select board and state legislators
- Jan 21 meeting at which the Planning Commission will gather public feedback to the Town Plan. Steve and Kevin will attend.
- Feb 3 meeting with Select board, DRB, and Planning Commission. Jim, Steve and Kevin will attend. In particular, Jim is interested in suggesting that the current "unwritten standard" that new development be responsible for dealing with their own storm water be codified.

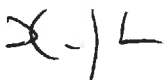
For the Town Plan, Steve noted that the most recent revision did not include an explicit statement that the PC will work with other commissions and townspeople on development of additional zoning districts (as was agreed upon at a December PC meeting). Steve will follow-up with Sam Guy to discuss the omission.

Sharon Rowell and Gary Greaves discussed the status and some current uses of their land and their desire to explore ways to continue the majority of the land in agricultural and rural uses. They are exploring a number of options to facilitate this goal. Sharon feels she has adequate information regarding the tax and financial aspects of the decision. She and Gary are looking toward the Commission for any help we might offer as they continue their planning.

As result of the discussion with the Greaves', the Commission realized the importance of developing an inventory of resources available to support the landowner's goal of preserving their land. This inventory should include both land trusts (VLT, American Land Trust, Capitol (Montpelier) Land Trust) as well as support services (such as financial planning, legal, land use planning, etc). Gert and Kevin will spearhead this effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'K. Lane' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Kevin Lane