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TOWN OF MORRISTOWN

Morristown Conservation Commission

January 15, 2014

Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Steve Rae, Dick Sargent, Brent Teillon, Jim Pease
Guests: Fran Sladyk, Doug Small, Chris Ransom

Meeting opened at 6:32pm
December meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Town Forest Discussion

Fran handed out the 12/29/13 draft forest plan and explained the next steps he would recommend. Cutting could occur in Area #1 and in the plantation areas. Area#2 could have the Balsam Fir removed. In #1 leave unscarred maple with 12-16"DBH to grow. Ash is going to be removed and is located along the northwest TF boundary. #1 should be divided into quarters of about 40 acres each. Ron supports cutting on the west side. Doug is willing to cut either side. #4 could be thinned later with an apple tree release; it is all old field successional growth. Cutting $\frac{1}{2}$ of #4 now and $\frac{1}{2}$ in 15 years is a recommendation. Brent believes we should cut the plantations now (white pine first?). The plantations are on the driest soils and could be cut any time of year. The option of cutting #7d plus $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of #1 OR cut the west side of #1 and the plantations and create a landing on the Bryant Pond Rd was discussed.

Brent proposed that #1 would be cut for good wood and #3 cut for habitat and #7d (plantation which is marked) be cut. He further proposed that Doug go out the east side and make a new landing on state land. #1 should be cut in winter only; the other areas it does not matter as much when they are cut. The Select Board would be given this plan. Ron and Fran will go the SB on Monday with the plan.

About 40 acres would need to be flagged in #1 and #3. Also we should contact the Audubon person to make recommendations on dens, snags, downed trees, etc. that should be protected (this is described in page 3 of the plan).

Brent made a motion to accept the 12/28/13 plan prepared by Fran Sladyk. Dick seconded. Discussion: Steve mentioned that this is an evolving (working) document. All were in favor.

Member Reports

Ron said Dick (who left at 7:30) might be working on easement language for Clark Park.

Ron participated in the Ash Tree survey and found 930 trees along the East side of Rte. 100 and Stage Coach Rd.

Jim mentioned that the Town and LCPC are willing to discuss working together to get grant funds (most likely a municipal planning grant) to put the wastewater, water and stormwater lines into a geographic information systems database. Some of the data already is but there is a need to have better data in order to assist landowners with hookups. Jim will meet with the Village Trustees regarding this issue to get their support. Steve made a motion to support Jim's efforts to reach out to LCPC and W&L to find funding for this mapping project.

Steve handed out the 2006 Town Forum feedback survey and the 2007 survey. Chris suggested putting the information on Front Page Forum. There was discussion about creating another survey for Town Meeting Day.

Town Meeting Day

Ron discussed the table for Town Meeting Day. Jim agreed to print out a large map of the Town Forest

Old Business

None

New Business

Chris raised the issue of the Village Road Crew pushing snow into Potash Brook at the corner of Cherry St and Congress St.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm

Respectively submitted,

Jim Pease