

June 19, 2025

Attendees: Jerry Throne, Sandra Zebal, Hilary Warner, Pamela Stanyon, Nancy Dunavan, Brent Teillon

Members not present: Dave Stevens, Jim Pease

Guests: Evelyn Throne, Chris Espejo

Meeting opened at Town Hall at 5:00 pm

The May meeting minutes were approved unanimously, with a correction for New Business Item 3, that Sandra spoke with Judy Bickford and did not attend the Town Housing Committee Meeting.

There was no treasurer's report.

There were no public comments.

New Business

1. Rocktoberfest participation- The Morristown Conservation Commission (MCC) discussed two main items at their June 19th meeting. They decided to request approval to participate in the town's Rocktoberfest event on September 27th, with Sandy taking the lead on coordinating the commission's presence with Adele Taplin with Pam & Hilary helping her get materials prior to the event.
2. MCC revisions on Town Website- The commission also reviewed updates to their information on the town website, noting that most content was current except for the bylaws, and agreed to ask the Administration to fix an upside-down map on the site.
3. Flood Safety Act education, outreach & possible speaker- The MCC discussed bringing in speakers from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) to educate the community about the Flood Safety Act and river corridor protections. Pam agreed to follow up with Alison at AVCC and see if we could schedule a speaker to provide a presentation and potentially open it to the public and other local organizations such as the Fire Dept. and EMS.
4. Other- The group recognized Brent's long-standing contributions to coordinating Green Up Day, and presented him with a framed certificate. Brent was the Morristown Green-up Chairman in 1970; Brent has been involved with Green-up for 55 years!
Jerry discussed a proposed pedestrian and bicycle study to promote walkability in the town.

Old Business

1. Continuation of logo discussion/changes/adoption- Hilary addressed the logo redesign for the Morristown Conservation Commission, with Ann offering to make changes to include adding windrows and a narrower trail, but not adding the acronym "MCC" due to branding concerns. The commission members debated the importance of including "MCC" on the logo

and considered using different versions with varying colors for different applications. A motion to proceed with a windrow and narrower trail, was approved with a plan to review a proof submission.

2. Google Survey data update-Pam reviewed results from the Google survey of nearly 100 town residents, identifying climate change and its impacts as key challenges, and discussed developing a 3-5 year vision for the town's green spaces and volunteer initiatives. A subcommittee will move forward with a draft to present to all MCC members, possibly at a special meeting.

3. Property conservation discussions-Brent and Jerry provided an update on ongoing property conservation discussions with Stowe Land Trust, which are in early stages and require further select board involvement, though specific details remain confidential.

4. Filling of vacancy- There is one vacancy and two applications to consider. Chris Espejo, a 1.5-year resident of Morristown, applied for a commission position, highlighting his technical illustration background and interest in conservation. The discussion emphasized the importance of community engagement and environmental challenges, with Chris identifying unreliable weather as a key issue for businesses and residents. Peter Bourne introduced himself and expressed interest in helping with trails and pedestrian access, offering his experience and connections. The group discussed climate change and the need for affordable home heating solutions while maintaining home comfort. The Commission members discussed who to recommend during a deliberative session at the end of the meeting; it was decided to recommend to the Select Board that Chris Espejo join the MCC.

5. Trails Committee- Members discussed the formation of a town trails committee, with Brent and Ron having previously met with Morrisville and Water and Light about trail development. The group also discussed adding a non-voting student representative to the Conservation Commission, similar to Stowe's Conservation Commission, which has four student members. They agreed to explore the process of how to make this happen, with Hillary offering to research the procedures. The commission agreed to move forward with investigating the possibility of having a student member, how that fits with the bylaws and how the Select Board feels about it. Pam offered to draft a policy/procedure document for student representatives. The process for selection of candidates and approval by the Select Board is yet to be determined. The discussion will be continued at a later time.

6. MCC Bylaws Modification- Jerry updated the members about proposed bylaw modifications regarding meeting times and changes to public representation, as recommended by the Town Attorney to the Town Manager, to align with state statute requirements. Brent expressed concerns about weakening the Commission's advocacy role by changing "may represent the public interest" to "advisory environmental evaluations," and the group agreed to continue discussing the administration requested bylaw revisions at a future meeting.

7. Additional planning & follow-up of Summer Rec. Camp field trip(s) to Town Forrest- Brent discussed plans for an upcoming summer camp, including four presentations on wildlife (by Brent), tree identification (by Emily Potter), birds/insects (by Pam/Nancy), history (by Ron) and forestry (by Fran Sladyk) on July 10th and 31st. Four topics are needed; wildlife and tree ID on July 10th and birds and forestry on the 17th. The Administration confirmed that liability

releases are in place for the camp activities, and the camp will run from 10 AM to 2:30 PM with two groups of 15-16 campers and councilors in each group. A scavenger hunt to keep the kids attention was suggested. The summer campers and councilors would bring and eat lunch in the forest. Members agreed to hold a planning meeting on July 7th or 8th to prepare for the camp. Age range of the campers needs to be determined.

8. Update Airport Industrial Park- Continued to next meeting.

9. Final Green-up report from Brent- Tabled to next meeting.

10. Other- Wednesday Nite Live table- July 16th and August 20th were chosen as dates of interest. Need to coordinate with new ECD Director, Adele Taplin.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 pm

Respectively submitted,
Jerry Throne

ACTION ITEMS:

- Rocktoberfest- Sandy with prior help from Pam & Hilary
- Town website revision- Jerry
- Educational speaker- Pam
- Logo- Hilary
- Draft 3-5 year vision for initiatives- Pam
- Research non-voting student members- Hilary
- Summer Rec. Camp educational trip to Town Forest- Brent