



Morristown Conservation Commission

Po Box 748 Morristown, VT 05661

December 18, 2025

Attendees: Jerry Throne, Sandy Zebal, Lisa Zinn, Nancy Dunavan, Hilary Warner, Chris Espejo

Members absent: Brent Teillon, Pam Stanyon

Guests: Ron Stancliff, Peter Bourne, David Durand

Meeting opened at 5:00 pm

November 20th meeting minutes were approved on motion by Sandy, second by Chris. Approved.

Public Comment- Ron Stancliff reminded us that December is a month for anniversaries: 2 years ago Mr. Koper signed paperwork conserving his land and one year ago Ron deeded his Joe's Pond property to UVM.

New Business:

1. **David Durand's application to join MCC**- discussion with, and interview of, candidate. He shared his background, interest in conservation, and experience with trail maintenance.
2. **Interim secretary**- Pam agreed to serve as interim secretary to fill vacancy created by Jim Pease's resignation.
3. **Treasurer's report**: Brent absent. As approved at the November 20 meeting, most of ¼ cent appropriation approved by taxpayers has been deposited into a new 6-month CD, with a small amount put in the money market fund to cover small expenses.
4. **Request Selectboard approve an article for another ¼ cent**: discussion about whether or not we would like to request money from the voters. There was consensus that we must have money on hand for when an opportunity arises to conserve or acquire land of value to the community. There was debate about whether we should forgo requesting money this year and we ultimately decided we would do that and request a meeting to discuss future funding with the Select Board. A motion was made and then seconded by Chris that Jerry will draft a letter to the Select Board stating that we need money but will forgo a request for this budget cycle due to financial constraints the Town budget is facing. The draft letter will state that we would like a line item to remain in the upcoming budget to show that we are not receiving money this coming year. The draft letter will also request an opportunity to meet with the Select Board to further discuss our funding needs and come up with a procedure for that going forward. Jerry will send the draft letter to MCC members for their review, comments, and acceptance

or rejection. The group also considered researching how other conservation commissions obtain funding from their towns.

5. **Consideration of trail sponsorship for trail maintenance:** Peter Bourne proposed that a trail sponsorship program be started to assist MCC members with trail maintenance and upkeep. Businesses, families, and/or non-profits would sponsor trails and receive recognition. Sponsors would be responsible for tasks like trimming brush, removing litter, and alerting us to larger needs. Group agreed it would be helpful to have more people involved in trail care. David suggested he look into the Whatcom Mtn Bike Coalition's trail adoption plan for ideas. Peter agreed to do more research. David also expressed his enthusiasm for trails and wondered if there should be a trails organization in town. Jerry said he envisions a sub-committee that is chaired by an MCC member.
6. **Year-end report of MCC accomplishments for 2025 Annual Town Report:** Jerry will share list of topics with MCC members so they can provide input.

Old business:

1. **Vision and strategic planning session-** discussion tabled due to Pam's absence. Planning session scheduled for January 14.
2. **Non-voting student member:** this was approved at recent Selectboard meeting. Lisa said she'd be willing to mentor the student. Hilary will create flow chart for application process through completion of term and also contact school principal to inform them about same and inquire about how to reach eligible resident students who do not attend PA.
3. **Select Board approved Lisa Zinn's appointment** to the MCC at recent meeting.
4. **Muddy Moose-** DRB approved change of use of cabins on property, with conditions; a resident has filed an appeal. Downstreet has reached out to the person and is working to resolve the resident's concerns.
5. **Recreational Trails Program grant update:** pre-application was submitted and accepted. Adele is now working on the official application for the grant.
6. **Maps:**
 - a. **Town Forest map update-** Chris is working on this.
 - b. **E911 map-** Town Forest trails are now shown on the Vermont E911 map.
 - c. **Digitizing of maps-** Jerry will get them to Chris and they will come up with a plan for moving forward.
 - d. Pam has been working with Ron Stancliff to research and ID public, conserved, and current use land parcels. It was noted that the 30 by 30 Project has maps that may be of use.
 - e. **Large map of conserved lands-** Hilary, Jerry, Peter, and Sandy met with Alec at LCPC who is creating a map for Pie Day.
7. **MCC member job description on Town website and MCC page-** follow up with Pam is needed, if it's ready, will have Judi load it to website
8. **Approval of Pie Day materials-** members reviewed and approved the updated conservation tri-fold brochure, created by Margo. Sandy will ask Elizabeth if she can print 50 copies. Jerry will find out if we need to register. Jerry will loan his table and we may borrow Lisa's easels.

9. **Trail markers inventory status:** Chris spoke with Brent and Brent thinks we have enough for now. Tabled for now due to Brent's absence. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of marking trails with plastic markers vs paint.
10. **Other:**
 - a. Vt. Council on Rural Development's 2026 Climate Economy Resilient Communities grant with Jan 20 deadline- Nancy thinks this is a good thing and suggested we partner with other town organizations. Nancy will reach out to MACC.
 - b. Nancy had contact with channel 5 about proposed MSI quarry story. They don't want to publish a story without being able to share both sides of the issue. She said Seven Days also plans to have a story.

6:43 Entered Executive Session.

6:45 Came out of Executive Session. Voted unanimously to send our request to Select Board to have David Durand added to MCC.

Adjourn at 6:45

Respectively submitted, Hilary Warner, Interim Secretary