



TOWN OF MORRISTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2026

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Members: Jerry Throne, Sandy Zebal, Nancy Dunavan, Lisa Zinn, Dave Durand, Brent Teillon, Hilary Warner

Absent: Chris Espejo, Pam Stanyon

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Ron Stancliff, Peter Bourne, Evelyn Throne, Jim Pease

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**A. 5:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER 5:03**

**B. 5:01 PM – APPROVE MINUTES**

*I.* Minutes of March 19, 2026 meeting approved with following corrections: spelling of *Krusch* and note that the Celebrate Green Potluck is celebrating *the positive news about the Green River Reservoir, not its conservation.*

**C. 5:05 PM - PUBLIC COMMENTS: none**

**D. 5:10 PM - NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Morristown July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration-** Adele asked if we plan to participate. Topic needs more discussion at next meeting, will table for now.

**2. MCC social media-** Pam created a draft template for an MCC Facebook page and associated calendar and would like approval to move forward with this. Lisa moved that we move forward with FaceBook and Instagram for MCC. Nancy seconded. Approved by 6, 1 abstained (Brent).

**3. Request to purchase plants for Oxbow from LCCD to extend buffer-** Jim Pease from Lamoille County Conservation District came to discuss their offer to sell MCC approximately (75) bare root trees/shrubs @ \$5-6/ tree for planting in the Oxbow buffer zone. Members discussed survival rate and vitality of plants planted at the Oxbow in the past, importance of having a plan for planting including right species and plant size. Members expressed lack of confidence that trees would survive, especially small ones. We discussed the results of a 2025 survey completed as part of the Oxbow Community Forum which indicated that many residents desire that the area be allowed to rewild and that the Town doesn't repeatedly spend money only to have the area ruined. Lisa agreed that the area should be allowed to rewild and is also concerned there is nothing growing there to hold the soil. In the end, there was agreement by most that it's important to get plants in the ground- right species, right size. Motion made by Brent to accept the offer to buy the trees and work with Fran Sladyk and Jim to get the right trees in the right place, contingent on Town giving us permission to plant them. Jim will rework the plan he has from 2 years ago and submit to Brent Raymond towards gaining permission from the Town. Brent, Lisa, and Fran will review the species list to determine if it is worthwhile. Evelyn

will find homes for the other trees in the lot that are not suitable for the Oxbow. Lisa seconded. All in favor except one (Nancy).

**4. Review of MCC Bylaw attendance requirement-** Due to a member missing multiple meetings, Jerry reviewed the attendance requirement. Members discussed the value and potential the member has exhibited and also that the member should step down if they are no longer able to attend meetings. Jerry will reach out to the individual again and no further action will be taken at this time.

**5. Thank-you note** was received from Nancy Banks following MCC's donation to Jane Sorenson's pollinator talk- card was circulated

**6. Trash recycling talk by LRSWMD-** Evelyn is working with LRSWMD to schedule a presentation about recycling in the fall, probably September.

**7. Other/Treasurer's report-** no report available

**E. 5:50 PM - OLD BUSINESS**

**1.** Muddy Moose & collaborative Trails group- Dave, Hilary, Jerry, and Lisa met twice to discuss an ideal Trails Committee structure. A letter dated April 4th was sent to the Selectboard Chair outlining the group's recommendation that the MCC oversee 2 separate trails groups: a Muddy Moose Stewardship Committee (to address access, parking, trails, conservation, etc.) and a Town Trails Committee for all other trails. Administration came back with a draft structure for one Trails Committee that would report to the Select Board. The group replied with an email dated April 9th in which the recommendation that a separate stewardship committee be established for Muddy Moose was reiterated. Jerry said MCC and other residents can speak out about the plan to the Selectboard. Jerry will request a meeting with Brent R and Don or Richard, along with Brent T and Dave to discuss the issue further.

**2. Maps-**

a. **Update town forest trail map** on town website with additional information requested from public- Hilary met with Wally from VT Forests and Parks over Zoom to discuss the possibility of updating our Town Forest trail map. Wally needs the locations of the historic sites we'd like to add to the map he created for the Town Forest kiosk. Next step is to create and e-mail Wally a shapefile in KML format of the historic sites- he can then add this information to the existing map.

b. **Digitizing of maps;** Jim found town forest & Clark Park maps; Fran Sladyk's- Jerry/Chris (tabled).

**3. Green-up Day plans:** Thanks to Nancy for working with 5 merchants and Laura Streets to obtain 7 items for the prize drawing using \$100 approved at the March meeting. Volunteers who bring trash back to the Oxbow will be entered in the drawing and notified if they win. The Town offered to pay for a Port-o-let. Bag pick up/road selection will be set up on 4/17-5/1 in Tegu. Banner directing folks to Tegu for bag pick up goes on Demars fence 4/20. 5/2 Green Up Headquarters will be set up at the

Oxbow 8-2. Town Highway crew will pick up bags around Town on 5/4. Casella picks up dumpster 5/5 and Jordan will contact KNS when tires are ready for pick up.

**4. Celebrate Green Community Potluck-** April 25 at the Wing Center. Representatives coming from Friends of the Green River Reservoir, Lamoille County Conservation District, Pollinator Pathway, Community Garden, Green Mountain Club- Sterling Section, Knot in Hyde Park, and Stowe Land Trust. Hilary made a motion for the approval of \$50-100 to cover cost of coffee and tea fixings, plus water and coffee cups.

**5. MCC Window display thru May 4-** Thank you Sandy, Evelyn, and Adele. Evelyn stated that new photos will be needed for future displays.

**6. Reminder about Knot in Hyde Park event 4/22/26** at the Wing Center

**7. DRB request to PC to change PUD Bylaws for “traditional subdivisions”-** DRB has requested that the PC change the PUD bylaws for traditional subdivisions related to the conservation requirement because developers have been going around them and DRB finds that unsatisfactory. There will be opportunities to share our suggestions with the Planning Commission. MCC discussed how the bylaw is not working particularly well for conservation either- it results in lots of small, unconnected parcels of conserved land that few know about. We discussed this as a possible opportunity to improve the bylaw language- for example maybe allowing developers to pay an in-lieu fee that could be used for more meaningful conservation projects like connecting wildlife habitat or trails. It was suggested that AVCC, LCPC and VLCT be consulted for guidance on language. Nancy will reach out to them to learn more.

**8. Training for MCC, DRB, & Planning Commission, May 19th-**Hilary, Nancy, & Lisa plan to attend.

**9. Earth Extraction model Bylaw language-** Jerry reported that the Planning Commission discussed Earth Extraction Operations and Dust Control Regulations at its 4/14 meeting. A document included in their meeting’s agenda packet outlines 5 regulatory options that could be adopted- 3 range from least to most stringent, the fourth is a combination of the 3, and the last is a tiered approach that has different levels of regulation depending on the intensity of development. Jerry said he believes the PC is leaning toward the tiered option which he thinks makes a lot of sense. There will be opportunities for the public to weigh in on this. One member stated that they feel the earth extraction zoning language needs to be tightened up significantly.

**10. Other.** 1) Morristown was awarded a Recreational Trails Program grant (approx. \$20,000) that will fund a trail inventory and begin the planning process for future trails initiatives. 2) Children from the library will be making signs and parading at 2:00 on Earth Day.

**F. 6:30PM – ADJOURN 6:46**

Respectfully submitted, Hilary Warner, MCC Clerk