



**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

May 21, 2026

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

Absent: Jerry Throne, Chris Espejo

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Leah Hollenberger, Ron Stancliff, Peter Bourne

*Participating via Zoom: Pam Stanyon (member)

5:02 PM – CALL TO ORDER

B. 5:02 PM – APPROVE MINUTES of April 16, 2026. Sandy moved, Dave seconded. Motion carried (6/0).

C. 5:05 PM - PUBLIC COMMENTS Resident Leah Hollenberger attended to bring the following to the attention of the MCC: a groundwater extraction application has been submitted to the state ANR and the Town by Five Mountain Mineral Water Company, which seeks to withdraw 157 million gallons of water annually for bulk and bottled water and also has plans for a gravel pit and bottling plant on Ferland Pit Road. A Public Notice for a 5/11 hearing regarding this was published in the May 7 issue of the News and Citizen. At this time, tests are being conducted by pumping water from a new bedrock well to assess impact on abutting properties. The project will likely go before the DRB for review. Leah shares this information with MCC, as a resident, in hopes that MCC will assess the project and bring any environmental concerns to the DRB. Ron Stancliff added concerns about Village-owned Bugbee Springs which abuts the proposed project. Peter Bourne suggested reaching out to MWL re how the proposed extraction could affect the spring. The commission discussed the need for more information about the project before taking further action.

Action: To learn more, Lisa will contact Tyler M, Brent will reach out to MWL, and Hilary will contact the AVCC.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's report: Brent reported the following balances: money market \$2937.87, CD #1 \$27,500, and CD #2 \$38,360.04. Recent expenses: Wing Center (\$150) for Celebrate Green Community potluck rental and Great Big Graphics (\$265.50) for logo stickers.

2. MCC/DRB/PC training May 19th- Nancy reported that she, Sandy, Lisa and Hilary attended a training session by David White of Sterling Mountain Planning . He outlined the responsibilities, as defined by VT statute, of members of the Planning Commission, DRB, and Conservation Commission. MCC's role is advisory and it can make environmentally related recommendations to the Planning Commission related to both the Town Plan and bylaws. Bylaws are the rules that must be followed. Planning Commission has standing in Act 250. He emphasized the importance of advance planning and collaboration between different town branches to create a vision for the community and address future development challenges. Nancy thought it was important that Town has bylaws to address data centers. Pam said we could craft what we want to see. Hilary made a motion, seconded by Pam, that Town Plan go on next month's agenda so we can discuss how MCC will make recommendations to the Planning Commission about sections of the Town Plan that pertain to conservation and the environment. Motion carried (6/0).

Action: Pam will identify pertinent parts of the Town Plan and lead a subcommittee. Other members will familiarize themselves with the Town Plan. Jerry will put topic on June agenda.

3. Trail Signage Discussion – Dave suggested that as we work on updating the town Forest map, we should consider painted blazes instead of plastic in the future. Using different colors would help trail users navigate

the trail system and would be visible, paint is easier to update when a tree falls down, and paint is inexpensive. Krusch Nature Preserve uses painted blazes. Ron said there are signs (painted boards with numbers) in the Town Forest that indicate the original lot numbers and these may need to be replaced at some point.

4. Other- Brent said he marked Northwest Trail where it crosses into Johnson and also cemetery holes 5 and 6.

E. 5:50 PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. Green-up Day report- Hilary thanked everyone for their participation in making Green Up a success. There were 378 registered volunteers, 508 green bags officially signed out and over 700 taken, >85 miles of roads cleaned up, 1.93 tons of dumpster trash, and 518 tires and 56 rims accepted. There were almost 3 times more tires than the average of the previous 4 years. Casella trash disposal cost \$736.98 and the KNS tire recycling cost was \$3429 less \$870 brought in from folks who dropped off 145 tires at \$6 each and less a very thoughtful gift from Green Up VT of \$600 when they heard of our unexpected tire disposal expense- leaving a total tire recycling cost of \$1959. Hilary outlined event successes, challenges, and ideas for improvement going forward in her Green Up report. She met with Adele, Brent R, and Jordan on 5/20 to debrief the event. They expressed their appreciation and discussed opportunities for reducing the volume of roadside trash such as reinvigorating campaigns like "Give a Hoot- Don't Pollute," working with schools, LRSWD, police to address illegal dumping, purveyors of alcoholic beverages, etc. Brent T suggested cameras and fencing at site next year. Peter suggested we look at how Wheels for Warmth deals with tires. Peter also discussed addressing fast food trash.

2. Celebrate Green Community Potluck 4/25/26 report- MCC considered the event a success with over 50 people in attendance representing a variety of local conservation-oriented organizations.

3. Knot in Hyde Park/Bee event 4/22/26 report- Lisa reported good attendance. Panel included Hyde Park Road Foreman Mark French, a resident who is tackling knotweed at home and on Long Trail in Johnson, Noah Hoffman from State of VT Invasive Species, and Mary Walz who leads Knot in Hyde Park. Panelists emphasized that mechanical removal of knotweed is effective if you do it faithfully- start with a small patch and keep at it. Pam reminded MCC that removal of invasive species is high priority in our strategic plan. Lisa moved that we establish a sub-committee for tackling invasive species in Morrisville. Dave seconded. Motion carried (6/0).

Action: Lisa to head up invasive species subcommittee, Pam to join.

4. Consideration of participating in Morristown July 4th celebration- Motion was made by Brent that MCC offer an early walk in Town Forest before other activities get underway. Seconded by Hilary, and, following discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Brent due to lack of leader and unknown holiday plans of members. There is interest in leading a fall tree identification walk and bird walk at some time.

5. Update to MCC social media-Facebook page/Annual Calendar- Pam started a calendar to help MCC keep track of events and a Facebook page to help publicize our activities to community. A suggestion was made to also start an Instagram account.

Action: Pam will send link to Google calendar for members to populate, invite Facebook users to join. Look into starting Instagram.

6. Purchase of plants from LCCD and planting in Oxbow, extend buffer- SB approved this. Lisa brought 8 college students and Dave who quickly planted the ~85 small trees and shrubs.

7. Update to Muddy Moose & collaborative Trails committee- Hilary, Lisa and Jerry met with Sally Laughlin in Cambridge on 5/6 to tour the Krusch Nature Preserve and learn how Cambridge navigated the transfer of the property to the Town and its ongoing management. On May 7, Jerry, Dave, and Hilary joined Brent R, Adele, Jordan, some select board members, and representatives from the Stowe Land Trust on a site walk of the Muddy Moose property. SLT stated that due to deadlines associated with grant funding, they are proposing that if the Town is to accept the property, the timing be delayed while they work to get a parking lot built and trails assessment completed. The Trails subcommittee continues work with Admin on a document outlining

structure of a Town wide Trails Committee with the next meeting scheduled with Admin on 6/2. The MCC subcommittee has continued to recommend that there be a committee created to oversee the Muddy Moose.

8. Maps-

a. Update of Town Forest trail map in response to request from public- Dave created a KML file of the historic sites in the Town Forest to be added to the existing forest map created by Wally at Dept of Forests and Parks. Dave was unable to convert to Shapefile as requested by Wally. Alec from LCPC converted the KML file to Shapefile. Hilary has sent 2 e-mails to Wally but hasn't heard back.

b. Digitizing of maps; Jim found town forest & Clark Park maps; Fran Sladyk's- Chris? Tabled

9. Update DRB request to PC to change PUD Bylaws for "traditional subdivisions": 5/12 PC minutes indicate there was a conversation about amending the conservation subdivision regulations. MCC discussed a desire to see bylaws that result in conservation subdivisions that makes sense from an environmental and conservation standpoint.

Action: To learn how other municipalities are dealing with this Nancy will reach out to AVCC, Hilary to LCPC, Lisa VLCT. Hilary will let PC Chair know we are interested in topic and researching how others Towns are addressing.

10. Earth Extraction model Bylaw language update- draft in process; move to June agenda due to Jerry's absence.

11. Trash recycling talk by LRSWMD- Evelyn tentatively scheduled 9/19th at 10:30; MCC approves of this date.

12. Other. Announcement made that there will be a Lamoille Housing Summit at JCOGS in Stowe, June 9, 9-5 followed by social gathering at the Alchemist. For those interested in finding diverse housing solutions in Lamoille County.

Town Forest Trails: Brent said in the past trail work days were scheduled in at least 3 summer months and he requested that younger members take over leadership of this. Northwest Trail needs clipping. All trails need maintenance. Brent has list of past trail volunteers. MCC also has trails subcommittee and list of new folks who have signed up to volunteer. Boy Scouts and VSU Johnson students are possibilities, too. Dave volunteered to spearhead this.

Action: Dave will set a date for trail maintenance work day and reach out to volunteers.

F. 6:34PM – ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted, Hilary Warner, MCC Clerk