

**Moretown Planning Commission
Minutes
October 2, 2012
Moretown Elementary School**

Present: Planning Commissioners Jonathan Siegel, Chair; Rube Scharges, Deb Sargent, Karen Horn.

Guests Jens Hilke Community Wildlife Program Conservation Planning Biologist;
Ned Swanberg Flood Hazard Mapping Coordinator; John Schmeltzer.

Jonathan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Planning Commission member invited Jens Hilke to review the natural resources section of the current Moretown Plan and Ned Swanberg was likewise invited to consider the water resources, river protection and fluvial erosion hazard zones and relevant sections of the Moretown Plan. Jens showed the planning commission an 8 map set of the habitat layers of Moretown to the extent that the Agency of Natural Resources has them mapped and discussed the ways in which a plan might protect habitat and what species of animals are good indicators of habitats that are protective for native species. (For instance deer are not necessarily a good indicator of the success of habitat corridor protections). Moretown is a good site for emphasizing connectivity of habitats because of its proximity to I-89. He recommended that the town conduct an inventory of town natural resources and habitats at the parcel level (parcels of undeveloped land, not "parcels" as they are defined for taxing and zoning purposes). There are potentially grant dollars available for this kind of work.

Ned Swanberg discussed Moretown's recent experience with not only Irene but also other storms and what that shows about where the water goes in flooding events. Middlebury students looked at repetitive events along roads and may have information the town could use. There are sometimes NRCS grants available for ecosystem restoration. Moretown has a buffer along the Md River but has no setback requirement. Moretown could do much more. He recommended the Planning Commission look at the FEMA Community Rating System and what kinds of discounts on flood insurance might be available to Moretown property owners. He indicated there are 17 flood insurance policies written on properties in town.

Rube made a motion to adjourn at 8:00. Deb seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Horn
November 24, 2012
Approved 12/4/12*