Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
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Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 24, October 2023

Council Members present: Joshua Goldstein, Etienne Hancock (Chair), John Meyer, and Wally Reeve
Council Guests: Village Trustee Vice Chair Bob Heanue, Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff, Conservation Commission Member Gerry Throne, Tom Cloutier, Martin Green, and Grant Wieler
Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas, and Scribe Bonnie McDermott

Call to Order: Chair Hancock called the meeting to order in the Community Meeting Room of the Town Offices at 43 Portland St. in Morrisville at 5:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes: Member Reeve moved to approve the September 12th meeting minutes. A vote of 4/0 was affirmed.

Discuss: New staff to record Planning Council Meetings. Mr. Thomas introduced Bonnie McDermott, who was hired to assist with Zoom Management/Minute Recording. The Council decided to Zoom its meetings for the public without using the interactive feature. The members hope that the availability of the meeting on Zoom will encourage the public to come to meetings and discuss issues live. Mr. Thomas said he would work with Town Administration to see if the recordings of these meetings could be retained and placed on YouTube, or similar format, once the Selectboard added video to its new records retention policy.

Discuss: Minimum parking ratio changes at risk in current zoning change. Currently, a section of the legislature's Act S.100 includes warned zoning changes to the parking ratios. The proposed changes will reduce the existing parking ratios for residential uses to no more than 1 parking space per dwelling unit. As more information is expected after the joint Selectboard and Village Trustee annual meeting on the 25th of October, it was decided to wait for the results of that meeting. Further discussion will be held.

Discuss: S.100 Homes for Everyone zoning changes. Mr. Thomas's list of actions to accommodate the impact of Act S.100 "homes for everyone" was presented for the Council's consideration. Act S.100 will require a large rewrite of the Town's existing zoning laws. Mr. Thomas introduced a maximum density cap for single family housing as related to "dwelling unit density standards for allowed residential uses" in the law. After discussion of these proposals, the Board requested maps including the Zoning Maps, the Village Boundary map, Village Service Maps, and the Town Designation Map for further consideration at the next meeting.

Discuss: **Town Administration request for a Town Plan revision.** A request for a town plan revision by the Planning Council has been made by the Interim Town Administrator. Although the town plan has been rewritten many times before and has not been approved by the LCPC, the motivation for a new town plan is the option to apply for grant monies that are only available if the town has a downtown designation. The Planning Council agreed that it would consider

making the small update that was being requested to the town plan in the summer of 2024 (post the completion of the required S.100 zoning changes). It was agreed that the start of said work was dependent on all three components: the Selectboard, the Village Trustees, and the LCPC voting that they would approve the Town Plan if it was revised specifically as requested. The Planning Council will wait to hear about the discussion at the Joint Committee on 10/25/23.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM, submitted by Bonnie McDermott. MA