



SELECTBOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 24, 2003

Members Present: Brian Greenia, James Paige, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Brian Kellogg

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA;

Guests: Steve Rae, MCC; Barbara Adams, Library; Mickey Smith, News & Citizen; Mark Loati, Morrisville Lumber and Lee Sturtevant, EMC

Chair Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Morrisville Water & Light Facility.

GUESTS

MARK LOATI – OXBOW WARRANTY DEED EASEMENT:

Chair Greenia gave a brief history of the options available to the Town for the construction of the Portland Street Sidewalk project. The original plan was for the sidewalk to run down to the Oxbow from Portland Street in front of Mr. Loati's place of business. A second option was to construct the sidewalk down Pleasant Street and across in front of the Oriental Station to connect to the Foundry Street entrance to the trail, therefore the need for a Warranty Deed Easement from Mr. Loati for where the existing trail crosses his property. Mr. Greenia explained the grant requirement for a loop system of the walking trail at the Oxbow in order to receive funding.

Mr. Loati will have the Warranty Deed reviewed and will contact the Administrative Assistant when done. He left at this time.

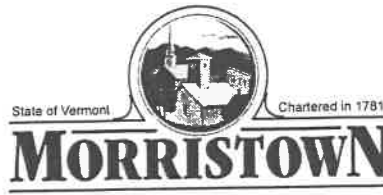
OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES:

On a motion by Shaun Bryer, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard approved the minutes of November 10, 2003 as presented.

UPDATE ON SHARED BUDGET ITEMS WITH THE SCHOOL:

The Town Administrator reviewed the proposal from the School District regarding snow plowing and salting, as well as the School Resource Officer for the upcoming budget as discussed at the previous meeting. The Selectboard were all in agreement to proceed with the shared budget items as presented. The TA will notify the school.



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box culvert. A request has been made for the Town to share half of the cost of this expense.

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard authorized \$4,000 for half of the expense to install 48" culvert at the Wilkins Ravine.

DOWNTOWN DESIGNATION:

The Town Administrator announced that Morristown received its Downtown Designation today. CDC Heidi Krantz telephoned this afternoon with the great news. Heidi stressed the importance of Cathy Voyer's role in receiving this honor, as Cathy made the motion to accept the application as presented.

RC&D REQUEST:

A \$50 2004 appropriation request has been received from RC&D. With the request being such a small amount, RC&D would like the Town to wave the required petition of 5% of the voters.

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by Brian Kellogg, the Selectboard authorized the \$50 payment to RC&D as requested.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

COPLEY TRUST:

Chair Greenia made mention of the letters received from Linda Livingstone of the Merchants Trust pertaining to Copley Trust fund activity.

LAMOILLE COUNTY BUDGET HEARING:

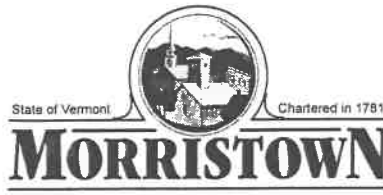
December 11, 2003 is the date scheduled for the Lamoille County Budget Hearing.

ADELPHIA BANKRUPTCY FILING:

It was noted that the Town has received notice of Adelphia Communications Corp., Chapter 11 Bankruptcy application Case No. 02-41729.

WARRANTS

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Mark Struhsacker, the Selectboard authorized the Warrants as listed on the Memorandum dated November 23, 2003. (Attached)



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ADJOURN

On a motion by Mark Struhsacker, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 1st day of December 2003.

Barbara Cochran, Administrative Assistant

Minutes to be presented for approval at the next regular meeting.

Minutes approved

Date

There are various approaches which have been tried in towns to preserve open spaces and rural character. They include zoning, purchase of conservation easements, downtown development, tax incentives (current use program for example), planned infrastructure growth. The following questions relate to such methods.

6. Indicate how you feel about the town promoting the development of downtown housing as a way of maintaining open spaces and the rural character of Morristown?

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>23</u>	____ <u>9</u>	____ <u>0</u>	____ <u>7</u>

7. Indicate how you feel about the town creating rural zoning areas requiring larger lot sizes (above the current two acres) as a way of maintaining open spaces and the rural character of Morristown.

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>18</u>	____ <u>8</u>	____ <u>6</u>	____ <u>7</u>

8. Indicate how you feel about the town creating special "high elevation" zoning areas to protect wildlife habitat, open spaces and/or protect scenic vistas.

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>28</u>	____ <u>4</u>	____ <u>0</u>	____ <u>7</u>

9. Indicate how you feel about the town setting aside tax funds for the purchase of development easements as a way of maintaining open spaces and the rural character of Morristown.

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>20</u>	____ <u>11</u>	____ <u>1</u>	____ <u>7</u>

10. Indicate where you feel Morristown should extend its sewer lines as a way to guide future growth.

North End of town heading east towards Wolcott

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>4</u>	____ <u>13</u>	____ <u>6</u>	____ <u>16</u>

North End of town heading west towards Hyde Park

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>5</u>	____ <u>15</u>	____ <u>4</u>	____ <u>15</u>

South end of town along Rt. 100

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>7</u>	____ <u>9</u>	____ <u>9</u>	____ <u>14</u>

West towards Lake Lamoille

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>3</u>	____ <u>4</u>	____ <u>16</u>	____ <u>16</u>

East towards Elmore

Very appropriate,	Somewhat appropriate,	Inappropriate,	no opinion
____ <u>2</u>	____ <u>12</u>	____ <u>9</u>	____ <u>16</u>

11. Do you feel the property tax / income tax, aid or hinder the preservation of open space and rural character?

Property Tax --	Helps preserve <u>4</u>	No effect <u>4</u>	Detrimental <u>12</u>	<u>19</u>
Income Tax --	Helps preserve <u>3</u>	No effect <u>14</u>	Detrimental <u>0</u>	<u>22</u>

Please use the space below to provide any suggestions on ways to preserve open spaces and the rural character of Morristown.

TRAILS

MATERIALITY OF RESPONSES INDICATED APPROVAL, BUT THERE WERE A FEW WHO THOUGHT LOSING THE RR WAS A MISTAKE. THE ISSUE OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN MOTORIZED & NON-MOTORIZED USERS WAS RAISED.

1. Are you aware of the on going effort to convert the Lamoille Valley Rail to a four season trail and what do you think about it?
2. Trails and recreational opportunities provide an attraction to visitors and contribute to the town's economic health:
 Agree strongly 24 Agree somewhat 11 Disagree 4 Not sure 0
3. As a goal for Morristown, the development of a recreation path connecting Morrisville to Stowe would be in your opinion:
 Very desirable, 24 Somewhat desirable, 7 Not desirable, 5 No Opinion 2
4. Before today, had you ever seen a copy of the map of Morristown Trails, published by the Morristown Trails Committee?
 Yes 25 No 14
5. Before today, were you aware of the fact that the town property, "the Duhamel Property", served not only as a gravel pit, but also as a well used outdoor recreation area, with hiking, biking and horseback riding occurring extensively during the summer months?
 Yes 26 No 13
6. As a goal for Morristown the development of a trail along the Lamoille river, connecting the east and west ends of town, would be in your opinion:
 Very desirable, 28 Somewhat desirable, 7 Not desirable, 2 No Opinion 2
7. Do you believe Morristown needs to improve or create additional paths for non-motorized travel?
 trails: improve 11, ok as is 8, create additional 20
 sidewalks: improve 15, ok as is 15, create additional 8
 bike paths improve 13, ok as is 5, create additional 20
 If you answered create additional or improve, indicate any specific place(s) where would you like to see improved or additional trails, sidewalks and/or bike paths.

SEPARATE PRINTOUT

8. How frequently do you use trails, bike paths and sidewalks for each of the following activities? [rate 1 to 5 with 1= rare and 5= often]
 Cross country skiing 91, walking 79, Horse back riding 5, Bicycling 105, ATV 7,
 Snowmobile 17, Snowshoeing 75, Birding 32, dog walking 58, other RUNNING - 27

9. How far do you live from a: How far would you like it to be?
 trail _____
 sidewalk _____
 bike path? _____

10. Do you have any concerns about trails and trail use in your vicinity?

SEPARATE PRINTOUT

Please use the space below (or the reverse side) for any additional comments or suggestions about trails and trail usage in Morristown.

NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS HERE

[illegible]



SELECTBOARD MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 2003

Members Present: Brian Greenia, James Paige, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Brian Kellogg

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; Carol Bradley, Mary Ann Wilson

Guests: Heidi Krantz

Chair Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Town of Morristown's staff room.

BUDGET REVIEW - GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TOWN ADMINISTRATION:

Discussion included how the Town Administrator and the Administrative Assistant's salaries were split between Administration and the Highway Department at a 75% - 25% ratio, as the front office handles all of the Highway Administration work.

ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER:

It was questioned whether we pay \$1,000 to the Animal League beyond the budgeted amount.

COLLECT/CUSTODY OF FUNDS:

Wages for all employees will be left at 3% until after the pay plan compensation study is done. The number of Property Tax payments was discussed. A payment schedule needs to be established. The School Board needs to be invited to a meeting. The Financial Office will calculate what it means to the Town in borrowed money savings. Mary Ann will look at the tax resolution versus whether it should be a Town Warrant. The Town Administrator thinks it needs to be warned at Town Meeting.

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY:

Discussed as cost, considering three meetings as listed.

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING:

There is a revenue entry of \$3,000 from Ambulance Service to the Bookkeeping Department for doing the Ambulance billing.

AUDITING:

Auditing dollar amount will be less, maybe.



SELECTBOARD MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 2003

TAX LISTING:

The Listers need to come up with a plan for hours at work and the people that list.

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTING:

After much discussion, the Board is thinking of doing the Delinquent Tax Collection as a stipend as the Health Officer is done, \$2,500 total with \$1,500 to Mary Ann and \$1,000 to Cathy.

PLANNING & ZONING:

Planning and Zoning are important functions of the community. Planning is not getting handled. The Board feels there needs to be a list put together of priority needs by the Town Administrator, the CDC and the Zoning Administrator for the Board to review and move forward with. The Board is considering a part-time Planner. Johnson may be looking for the other half of a Planner's time. Discussed Mark's role as an Administrator for the MPC, but he is not a Planner to put the issues to them. The Planning Board can't get a quorum to meet when Mark does put an agenda together; therefore a part-time Planner is needed.

It was discussed that the CDC could do some of these issues with expert help in some areas from a Planner. The Board needs the best person today to do the job and can get the help as Heidi goes forward with the CDC as well as the MACC position. (Carol says it will take 18 months) They decided to wait on the half time Planner until the Town can get the Planning Board to act on changes.

MACC:

The budget for MACC was discussed under revenues with the balance of \$6,700 funded by in the Town budget. If they don't raise this money, they can't spend it.

TRAILS COMMITTEE:

The TA made a mistake and has not put in the \$10,000 of Revenues in the Budget. \$10,000 will be spent, only if we get a like grant.

MAINTAIN GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Mary Ann Wilson discussed maintenance of buildings; five of them should have someone to do the work. Maybe something an on-call person with a property maintenance firm might handle. (Same price)

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Approved 12/18/03
Barbara Cochran