

**MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of December 07, 1999

Members Present: Rich Furlong, Sam Guy, Kelly Rogers, Stephen Jennings, and Bruce Tomlinson.

Members Absent: George Robson, Julia Compagna, and Wendyll Behrend.

Guest: Heath Eiden, Frank Huard, Gertrude Lepine, Peggy Struhsacker, Min Cote, Kathleen O'Neil, Scott Course, and Paul Markowitz

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. by Sam Guy, Acting-Chair.

Rich made a motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 1999, as written.
Bruce seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission/Land Trust Group

Peggy gave an overview of their work that they have done. This group came out concerns about sprawl and to prevent fragmentation of farms and forest lands. They have met twice and now have over twenty people. They have looked into and decided to pursue a conservation commission rather than a land trust at this time. A land trust is a private non profit organization. A conservation commission is sanctioned by the Town and would be a nine member commission and work closely with the Select Board, Planning Commission, and Development Review Board. The conservation commission can be formed by the Select Board at any time just like a planning commission can be. There are many things that they can do for a community , under their charge if agreed upon by the commission and Select Board. They would work with the Vermont Land Trust in conserving land as well. There are different ways a land trust can conserve land they include; land can be give fee simple, a certain agreed upon price in part or in whole, or can have a conservation easement which removes the development rights. For example Gert Lepine took \$150,000. for her farm's development rights and donated the remaining \$250,000 in development rights. Donating development rights can be very attractive, if you are in a high income bracket, where the income tax deduction can be taken over five years. They will meet with the Select Board on January 10, 2000 and their next meeting as a group will be January 05, 1999 at Michelle Swift's house.

Downtown Group

Scott gave an overview of their meeting. They met last Saturday with the six people in the group. They are making contacts to get more people involved. They started out to get the wires off the street along Main and Portland Streets. They are now looking at the whole downtown and the many issues. They will meet next on January 11, 2000 in the conference room. Bruce, Kelly and Sam will be liaisons for the Planning Commission

Intergenerational Community and Cultural Center

This group, also met last night, and it appears it will merge with a group started at People Academy who is doing the same thing. Scott Course attended this meeting. The creamery and gristmill buildings that Water and Light owns are being considered. The Water and Light may renovate the buildings and lease or rent the building out to the various groups looking for space. The buildings would have a total of roughly 8,000 square feet of space and since one building sits on the dam, they could only sell the building from the first floor up, as they would need to keep the basement to access items at the dam, this may be a more practical solution.

Recreation Path Group

This group has not met yet due to a scheduling conflict and will meet in the conference room on December 20th. Ken has come across two sources of possible funding when they are ready. Stephen will be liaison for this group.

It appears that groups have some overlapping ideas and the Planning Commission will meet with all for groups on January 18th to share ideas.

Other Business:

Ken and George will contact Wendyll Behrend about her need to attend more meetings before the January 4th meeting

Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM.
Sam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Sweetser, Scribe.