

MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION
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Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2012

Present: Etienne Hancock, Reeves Larson, Max Paine, Mark Struhsacker & Tom Snipp
Members Absent: Paul Griswold & John Meyer (Chair)
Staff: Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator & Planner
Guests: Resident Chris Ransom

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 P.M.

Approve prior meeting minutes – approval of the November 20th meeting minutes was tabled because of a quorum of the members present that evening were not currently in attendance.

Discussion: Education Chapter of the Town Plan – Zoning Administrator Thomas said that the review of this chapter of the Town Plan was tabled for the evening because Superintendent Tracy Wrend was still working on it and it was not ready for discussion this evening.

Discussion: Historic, Scenic & Archaeological Resources Chapter of the Town Plan - Zoning Administrator Thomas said that the review of this chapter of the Town Plan was tabled for the evening because he was still working on it and it was not ready for discussion this evening.

Discussion: Community Profile Chapter of the Town Plan – Zoning Administrator Thomas said that the review of this chapter of the Town Plan was tabled for the evening because he was still working on it and it was not ready for discussion this evening.

Discussion: Economic Development Chapter of the Town Plan – Zoning Administrator Thomas asked the commission members what they liked, what they did not like and what needed to be changed with the existing economic development chapter of the Town Plan. Member Larson said that he liked the chapter as written. Member Snipp agreed. Mr. Thomas said that he would update the figures in the chapter, but truncate the section on the sectors of the economy. He also said that he would work toward tying the economic development chapter more closely to the land use chapter. Mr. Thomas also added that the revised economic development chapter needs to focus more on unemployment. Member Paine said that he would like to see the rail trail mentioned more prominently in the chapter. Mr. Thomas also said that he would add to the chapter the recent instances of infrastructure improvements in uptown that led to job growth. The commission also agreed to add municipally developed industrial parks to the chapter. Member Larson also noted that downtown revitalization should be stressed in the revised economic plan.

Discussion: Natural Resources Chapter of the Town Plan – The commission agreed that the Natural Resources Chapter of the Town Plan should largely remain as written. Zoning Administrator Thomas was asked to make some minor updates to the revised chapter. Mr. Thomas said that he would be sure to add Member Struhsacker's proposed language about forest management on town and state lands and Member Hancock's “silhouette of ridgeline” language that was talked about in the productive resources chapter of the town plan. Upon a question from guest Chris Ransom, Mr. Thomas said he would do his best to find out if any great blue heron rookeries remained in Morristown.

Discussion: Town Plan update schedule – The commission agreed to discuss the aforementioned chapters of the Town Plan still being revised at its December 18th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Thomas, ZA