

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
PO Box 748 / Morrisville, VT 05661
Phone (802) 888-6373

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 24 November 2020

Council Members Present: Allen Van Anda, Steven Foster, Joshua Goldstein, Etienne Hancock (Chair), Tom Snipp

Council Members Absent:

Guests: Bob Heanue, Graham Mink, David Heller, Mike Alexander

Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Call to Order: Chair Hancock called the meeting to order in the Community Meeting Room of the Old Tegu Theatre on 43 Portland Street at approximately 5:05 P.M.

Prior meeting minutes – Member Foster moved to approve the September 22nd meeting minutes. A vote of 3-0-2 affirmed the motion (with Members Goldstein and Snipp abstaining). Member Van Anda moved to approve the October 13th meeting minutes. A vote of 3-0-2 affirmed the motion (with Members Foster and Snipp abstaining). Member Foster moved to approve the November 10th meeting minutes. A vote of 5-0 affirmed the motion.

Discuss: Revisiting the HDR Zoning on Jersey Heights – The Council discussed an informal petition that was recently distributed by Jersey Heights resident Dave Cheney asking that the current High Density Residential zoning for his neighborhood be reverted back to Low Density Residential. Zoning Administrator Thomas discussed the recent history of the zoning for this neighborhood, and the legal machinations of the zoning change process. Graham Mink and Bob Heanue, who both own property on Jersey Heights, expressed concerns about the dearth of affordable housing in the community, and how the new HDR zoning for this neighborhood was a step in the right direction. David Heller of Best Street expressed concern for the character of the neighborhood, and how the new apartment buildings and townhouses being proposed would change the character thereof. Member Goldstein said that design requirements had been added to the zoning for the Jersey Heights section of the HDR Zone so that any new multi-family buildings in the neighborhood will have rich architecture and front porches. Chair Hancock said that the Council would not be making any decisions at this meeting regarding the zoning for this neighborhood. Mr. Thomas said that he would place this topic on the Council's next meeting agenda.

Discuss: Draft Wellness Chapter of the Town Plan – The Council discussed changes to the existing Wellness Chapter of the Town Plan proposed by the Town's new Recreation Committee. Member Foster suggested additions to the plan supporting the Town's Emergency Response Service. The Council agreed to incorporate all of Member Foster's proposal within the chapter. Mr. Thomas noted a few minor edits that were needed in the chapter. Member Van Anda and Member Goldstein suggested pairing back the new revisions regarding substance abuse. The Council, by consensus, was otherwise amendable to the proposed changes. Mr. Thomas said he would email out a revised version of the Wellness Chapter in the coming days.

Discuss: Land Use Chapter of the Town Plan – Mr. Thomas explained that he had to reverse out the changes to Land Use Chapter made at the last Council meeting regarding expanding the downtown designation area. Mr. Mink said that this was a mistake. Mr. Thomas explained that this was a Selectboard matter, but that the rest of the chapter was unchanged from what was agreed upon at the last Council meeting.

Discuss: Implementation Chapter of the Town Plan – Mr. Thomas introduced the first draft of the Implementation Chapter of the Town Plan to the Council. He explained that the Implementation Chapter was a compilation of the all the objectives/goals found throughout the other chapters of the Town Plan. Council members went through each of the listed goals in the Implementation Chapter and made certain changes thereto. Mr. Thomas said that he would provide a revised version of this chapter for the next Council meeting.

Discuss: Upcoming Legislative Body zoning change hearings – Mr. Thomas requested Council Member participation at the December 2nd Village Trustee zoning change hearing, and at the December 7th Selectboard zoning change hearing. It was decided that Council would keep its regularly scheduled meeting on December 8th, but not meet during christmas week on December 22nd.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM, submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director