

MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 748 / MORRISVILLE, VT 05661
Phone (802) 888-6373

Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2012

Present: Paul Griswold, Etienne Hancock, Reeves Larson, John Meyer (Chair), Max Paine, Tom Snipp & Mark Struhsacker

Members Absent: None

Staff: Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator & Planner

Guests: Tracy Wrend, the Superintendant of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Approve prior meeting minutes – Member Paine moved to approve the October 16, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 6-0-1, with Member Snipp abstaining.

Discussion: Education Chapter of the Town Plan – With Tracy Wrend, the Superintendant of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union, in attendance, the commission began discussing the education chapter of the town plan. Zoning Administrator Thomas read the statute detailing what was required for an education chapter in a town plan. Mr. Thomas noted that the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) review of the existing town plan stated that it is already compliant with statutory requirements. He added that LCPC suggested linking the education chapter of the town plan to economic development. Member Griswold said that he thought the existing education chapter of the town plan is more verbose with historical data than needed. Mr. Thomas said that the education chapter should really focus on current educational facility size versus enrollment projections. Member Meyer agreed and said that the planning commission should be looking at school facilities for planning purposes, not the operation of the school. Member Hancock asked Ms. Wrend if the planning commission should be looking at data from surrounding towns since the Morristown school system receives tuitioned students. Ms. Wrend responded that the number of tuitioned students was declining. Ms. Wrend stated that educational expenditures in Morristown are approximately \$8 million a year, while education taxes collected are just over \$6 million a year. She added that increasing education spending in Morristown costs just 28 cents on the dollar due to the state funding formula. The commission discussed if the existing educational facilities were adequate for future growth. Ms. Wrend said that facilities are built for the existing population, but they should be adequate for projected future student population. The commission discussed if redistricting should be discussed in the education chapter. Member Larson said that the chapter should just focus on facilities. Ms. Wrend spoke about the Supervisory Union's five-year infrastructure plan that included resurfacing and enlarging the running track, resurfacing the tennis courts and building two competition sized gyms. She added that she would appreciate community input on the desired use of these recreational facilities so they can accommodate total demand. Member Griswold said that he agrees that facilities like the proposed field-house should be planned for the community, not just the school. He added that we are one

community and that we have spent too much time talking about school needs versus town needs. He said that any new recreational facilities built up at the school should accommodate the entire community's needs and desires.

Member Griswold asked Ms. Wrend about the use of the Graded Building. Ms. Wrend said that it is fully utilized. Member Griswold noted the Graded Building as having approximately 18,000 ft.² of space, of which he believes the town offices could and should be located therein. He added that if more space is needed for educational purposes due to displacement from the Graded Building, it should be located up on the hill with the rest of the school facilities. Member Griswold said that he only desires to see the highest and best use for the Graded Building and he thinks the town offices at this location, along with a park and concert space could be the crown jewel of Morrisville. Member Griswold said that language should be added to the town plan recommending that the Selectboard work with the School Committee to form a working committee that is instructed to report on the current state and highest and best future use of the Graded Building for both educational needs and town office space needs. The commission agreed to insert such language into the education chapter of town plan.

Ms. Wrend and Mr. Thomas told the commission that they would begin working on revising the education chapter of the town plan. Mr. Thomas said that he would get a revised version of the education chapter to the commission as soon as possible.

Discussion: Productive Resources of the Town Plan – The commission reviewed the revised productive resources chapter of the Town Plan. Member Hancock asked that one of the recommendations at the close of the chapter be reworded. The commission agreed on the revised language and agreed that the productive resources chapter of the town plan was ready for a public hearing.

Discussion: Reorganization –The commission discussed reorganization. Mr. Thomas said that the commission was supposed to have a chair per the rules and procedures recently adopted by the Selectboard and Village Trustees. It was agreed that Member Meyer would serve as chair until Town Meeting.

Discussion: Town Plan update schedule – The commission discussed the last few scheduled meetings and agenda items for the town plan update and agreed to the schedule as proposed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Thomas, ZA