

MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION
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Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2012

Present: Paul Griswold, Etienne Hancock, Reeves Larson, John Meyer, Max Paine & Mark Struhsacker

Members Absent: Tom Snip

Staff: Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator & Planner

Guests: Ron Stancliff of Lower Elmore Mountain Road

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

Approve prior meeting minutes – Member Griswold moved to approve the October 2, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 5-0-1, with member Meyer abstaining.

Discussion: Reorganization – This discussion item was tabled until all seven commission members were present.

Discussion: Land Use Chapter of the Town Plan – Zoning Administrator Thomas asked if any commission members wanted final changes made to the revised land use chapter of the Town Plan. Resident Ron Stancliff asked the commission to visit the town forest and to create an agricultural zone to protect places like this in the remote areas of town. Mr. Stancliff said that he believes the commission should create a minimum 10 acre lot size for areas like Lower and Upper Elmore Mountain Road. Member Griswold asked Mr. Thomas to make certain changes to the wording of the revised land-use plan. The commission discussed if it wanted language in the Town Plan that opposed projects in Uptown/North End that did not meet the requirements of the North End circulation study completed in 2011. The commission ultimately decided that would keep this language as it was written. The commission agreed that the as revised land use plan was ready for the public hearing process.

Discussion: Wellness Chapter of the Town Plan – The commission discussed the proposed wellness chapter of the Town Plan. Member Hancock said that he thought the wellness chapter, unlike other sections of the Town Plan, lacked teeth. Mr. Thomas explained the evolution of the wellness chapter to its current form. Member Meyer said that he really liked how the original version of the wellness chapter, completed largely by the Lamoille Fit and Healthy Counsel, included benchmarks to track progress in obtaining health goals. Mr. Thomas explained that the subcommittee that the commission asked to streamline the plan decided that these benchmarks should be removed there from, as the narrowest dataset referred to therein was the Copley service area, which is considerably larger than the town of Morristown. Member Griswold said that this was a very important distinction for him and that he did not feel comfortable having the town react to changes in data that may or may not have anything to do with the actual goings-on of the town. Member Struhsacker said that he liked the wellness chapter as written in

saw the reason not to stand behind it. Member Struhsacker moved to adopt the wellness plan as written. A vote of 6 to 0 affirmed the motion.

Discussion: Productive Resources of the Town Plan – The commission began the review of the productive resources chapter of the Town Plan. Members discussed if this chapter should be merged with the land use chapter. Mr. Thomas said that would be perfectly acceptable, but that there was language in this chapter of the Town Plan that needed to be captured in the land use chapter if the productive resources chapter was to be abandoned. The commission decided not to merge the two chapters due to the time and effort required to accomplish this task, juxtaposed with the seemingly little value created by the merger. The commission came to the conclusion while discussing the productive resources chapter that the private market could and would satisfy some of things currently contained therein that were currently incumbent upon the town to manage. For example, the commission decided to strike language that required the town to watch for opportunities to have older gravel pits comply with the requirements for reclamation because they were reasonably assured that local companies like HA Manosh were already doing this. Commission members agreed to make other various changes to this chapter of the Town Plan. Mr. Thomas said that he would have a revised productive resources chapter for the commission to review at its next meeting. Member Griswold added that he wanted the town to develop more energy-efficient routes for hauling gravel around town that did not involve going up large hills.

Discussion: Education Chapter of the Town Plan – This discussion item was tabled until the November 6th meeting when Tracy Wrend, the Superintendant of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union, would be in attendance.

Discussion: Town Plan update schedule – Mr. Thomas said that the next planning commission meeting would be devoted to reviewing the education chapter and the revised productive resources chapter of the Town Plan.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Thomas, ZA