

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
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Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2015

Planning Council Members Present: Andrea Beeman, Paul Griswold (Chair), Yvette Mason, Max Paine, Tom Snipp & Mark Struhsacker

Planning Council Members Absent: Etienne Hancock

Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Guests: Marci Young & Max Neal, Executive Director of the Lamoille Chamber

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order in the Community Meeting Room of the Tegu Building at 43 Portland Street at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Planning Director Thomas reminded the Council of next week's Legislative Body zoning hearing on the 22nd at 5:30 PM.

Discussion: Proposed Changes to the Town Road Policy – Mr. Thomas led the Council through the proposed Town Road policy. Mr. Thomas noted that this policy was a significant departure from the previous road policy, including its mandate that dead-end roads no longer be accepted as Town Roads. Member Struhsacker commented that he liked this policy change. Chair Griswold said that an exception should be allowed in the policy to allow public replacement of private culverts when public road work had undermined said culvert. It was also decided that there should be an allowance for a road to still be a town road if it dead-ends into a Class 4 road that provides for recreational opportunities for the public. The Council also said that striping of roads should be considered in the road policy. Mr. Thomas said that he would make the specified changes and email out the revised road policy in the next day or two.

Discussion: Proposed Sidewalk Plan – Mr. Thomas led the Council through an initial proposal for a plan that would guide the creation of sidewalks in the town and village. The Council decided that the plan should be more specific as to where sidewalks would be required by linking it to specific zoning districts. The Council, by majority, decided that sidewalks should be available to businesses that offer services and not just those businesses that sell goods to the general public. An example of this change that was discussed was the new accounting office on Rte 100 south of the village. A majority of the Council agreed that sidewalks should be required of businesses in this area. The Council also decided that a cross-section of what an acceptable sidewalk should look like should be added to the plan, as well as a sentence that all sidewalks must meet ADA requirements. Mr. Thomas said that he would make these changes and review them with the Council at its next meeting.

Approve prior meeting minutes – Member Paine moved to approve the August 25th meeting minutes. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 5-0-1 with Member Caldwell abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM – submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director