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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of September 15, 2009

Members Present: Bill Henchey, Lauren Traister, Max Paine, Andrew Volansky, John Meyer

Members Absent: Reeves Larson, Paul Griswold

Staff: Mark Leonard (ZA), Bill Rossmassler (LCPC Planner), Town Administrator (TA) Dan Lindley

Chairman Bill Henchey called public meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

TA Lindley reported that the Select Board (SB) anticipates voting on whether to accept, reject or send the proposed zoning revisions back to the PC with requested changes at their next meeting on September 21st. He expects they will send it back to the PC with several requested changes. The PC would incorporate those changes into the proposed revisions and send them back to the SB for another public hearing before taking a final vote, which he estimated to take place in late October. Bill H urged PC members to attend the Sept 21st SB meeting to ensure no last-minute changes to previously agreed positions on several proposed bylaw changes are made.

TA Lindley reviewed several changes he has suggested in the proposed LCPC planner contract. He feels a more generic description of services to be provided to the PC under the contract, rather than a specific 'laundry list' of projects/tasks, provides both the PC & the Town more flexibility in using the LCPC planner's services. He highlighted the planner's primary support role to the PC, distinguishing that from LCPC's normal services provided to subscribing towns. Bill H said the PC would forward its comments on the revised contract to the TA for final review by the SB on September 21st.

TA Lindley suggested that 'infrastructure planning', as identified in the LCPC work schedule, such as planning where utilities are provided and how new utility infrastructure is funded, is best handled between the Town (through the TA's office) and Morrisville Water & Light (MW&L) Dept, on behalf of the Village Trustees. He said a working group consisting of the TA, MW&L executive director, a Select Board member, & Village Trustee had recently been established to address these very issues.

Bill H said the PC had invested a great deal of time & effort over several years into defining the Sewer Service Market Area (SSMA) boundaries, knowing that wherever sewer service was to be extended that growth and development would follow. Having played a key role in defining the SSMA boundaries, he felt that the PC should also be represented in the working group that's figuring out where within the SSMA service lines will be placed. Max volunteered to be the PC's representative on the Infrastructure Planning Committee.

TA Lindley update the members on various ongoing projects Community Coordinator Heidi Krantz is working on. Heidi is working with the Morristown Alliance for Culture and Commerce (MACC) on a 4-year project to extend Pleasant Street sidewalks, landscaping in & around the municipal parking lot and other improvements around the parking lot that will enhance its use by various community groups. He noted that the project will result in a net reduction of 14 parking spaces in the lot. Heidi is also working with MACC and the Village Road foreman on sidewalk improvements on Lower Main Street and extension & repair of the sidewalk along Route 100 heading south from the Village across from the police station.

TA Lindley also advised that VAST had recently agreed to provide a $750,000 match to a federal grant for rail trail projects. VAST is working with Morristown, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Cambridge officials to have the rail trail segments in those towns completed first. The eventual plan is to connect the rail trail south to existing recreational trails in Stowe.

Bill R presented a revised LCPC support schedule for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The schedule identifies specific topics for all PC meetings through June, which should help inform the public of topics of interest. Bill H noted that the first issue, Route 100 corridor zoning, will take up much of the PC's time over the next 6-9 months.

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The ZA highlighted the need to develop and publish a specific meeting agenda ahead of each meeting so interested parties can plan to attend. He said the agenda should be posted and otherwise distributed by the Friday prior to a Tuesday meeting, much like the Select Board agenda is posted ahead of its meetings. He said PC meetings will be videotaped for broadcast on the local public access channel beginning with the next meeting on October 6th.

On a motion by John, seconded by Lauren, minutes of the September 1, 2009 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Minutes approved on: 10/6/09
Mark Leonard