

**MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of September 12, 2000

Members Present: George Robson, Kelly Rogers, Stephen Jennings, Bruce Tomlinson, Sam Guy, and Bill Henchey

Members Absent: None

Guest: Julia Compagna

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. by Stephen Jennings, Chair.

Stephen open the warned public hearing on the Proposed Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw Amendments.
There was no public at the warned public hearing on the amendments.

George made a motion to approve the minutes of August 15, 2000 as written.
Sam seconded the Motion and passed unanimously.

Stephen brought the Commission up to date on the Morristown Recreation Trails Committee public meeting on going from rails to trails. VAST is proposing to take the entire 97 mile of line and turn it into a multi use four season path. There were people there from all of the communities in Lamoille County along the railroad. VAST is looking to partner with the towns along the rail corridor.

Stephen feels a path between Stowe and Morrisville would be better and a bigger help to Morrisville, but that we still should keep going on this multi use path.

Bill said he thought it would be very difficult to get landowner permission from people between Stowe and Morrisville.

The Commission discussed possible grant ideas for this year's round of grants
George asked if Ken had sent a memo to Scott Corse asking if they were interested in mapping water, sewer, and electric lines. Ken said yes.

Bruce made a motion to close the warned public hearing at 7:30 PM and to pass the proposed Zoning and Subdivision Bylaw Amendments to the Select Board and Trustees.

Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

George asked how the study was going and did we need to still do more studies on the gully behind the building on Professional Drive.

George discussed the possibility of doing some marketing study that would look at the mix of businesses, connecting downtown and growth center besides sidewalk, store front, group advertising, drawing people to the area, a looking into business hours and should they be extended. Downtown grants generally have a ten to twenty percent match requirement.

Stephen said we should do something for the corn roast as it draws 600-700 people.

Kelly said it was too late for sidewalk sales.

George said but maybe we could do something else that evening since the people are already here.

The watershed grant was discussed. Is the gully behind professional Drive business still a problem and should we put more money into a study.

Ken explained that between Forcier -Aldrich's work and NRCS work what we will come up is low tech solutions to try, such as log check dams to slow the water down.

Stephen asked if the railroad culvert was already working as a retention basin.

Bill asked where the silt was coming from.

Ken explained that most of the siltation is from the gully where it is eroding, but some does come down with the water.

George explained that the railroad embankment does act as a retention basin, but with the culvert at the bottom it has lots head pressure forcing water through the culvert which erodes all the way to the river/lake.

Ken said we would be working with the big players in the north end to kick and with the grant and FEMA monies we could try the low tech ideas. Water shed grant can be up to \$4,000. However, being this far from Lake Champlain we could probably get only a \$ 2,000 grant. We would be working with Nancy Koeing who office in with the NRCS she is the Watershed Coordinator for the county.

The Commission discussed how many trucks that go through the downtown now and how noisy they are. When the Morrisville Alternate Truck Route is built that this will make the downtown more attractive and livable. At times during the day it appears that one in three vehicles are trucks especially gravel trucks.

Julia and Ken went over the Enhancement Grants Applications. Ken sent letters of intent on four sections of sidewalk as Ken was asked to by the Select Board. The four sections are from Harrel Street to Rte. 15, this would cover the short fall from the bike and Ped Grant we received; from Portland Street to Oxbow Park; from Best Street to the Bishop Marshall School; and from Munchey's to Fairground Plaza.

Bruce asked how many children from Bishop Marshall School will walk to school.

Ken said he did not know and that ball fields would be open for use when they are not using them.

Bruce asked if they would have teams.

Ken said they will be used for Gym but that he has no idea if they will have teams.

Kelly asked from Munchey's to Fairground Plaza was done in the bike & ped grant. No this is the other side and would pick up the walkway from Professional Drive and up to Grand Union. AOT has not agreed to put in a cross walk from Professional Drive and trying to cross five lanes of traffic from Fairground Plaza to the existing sidewalk is difficult.

George said it very hard to cross in a car and as a pedestrian its impossible.

Julia said that she would act as the conduit between the Select Board and the various boards on grants. She asked if they felt they had time to help in the next six weeks.

Ken said that now they have held the public meeting they do not have anything on going until after the amendments go into effect.

Julia asked if they could prioritize the for so that if we do not have time to do all four that we can get the most important ones applied for and that she can do a cover letter with our preferences if they do not wish to approve all four.

The Commission ranked the Enhancement Grant possibilities with their preferences.

The Planning Commission felt that the Marketing Assessment Study would be their top choice but wishes to wait until after the joint meeting on the 20th.

Their ideas for the study would be:

Marketing Analysis

Making downtown attractive to new businesses

Do we have the right mix of businesses for the long term

Little Shop Format

Connecting downtown and Growth Center

Joint advertising of Morrisville-Morristown

Updating store fronts, and

Having enough good data of this out of this study to apply for a CBD grant for implementation.

If we can afford, it as part of this, mapping of water, sewer, storm water, and electric lines.

Bruce made a motion to do the marketing study with the municipal planning grant.

Bill seconded the motion.

George said he wanted to amend the motion pending the outcome of Wednesday's joint meeting.

Bill seconded it.

The vote on the amendment was approved unanimously.

The vote on the original motion was approved unanimously

Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.

Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth J. Sweetser, Scribe