



MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 1998

Members Present: Rich Furlong, Julie Compagna, Sam Guy,
George Robson

Members Absent: Dan Demars, Pat McCulloch

Guests: Ken Sweetser, Donna Phelps, Gary Nolan, Oneal Demars, Susan
Bartlett, Tom Bjerke, Paul Trudell, Joie Marshall, Lucy Leriche, Adrienne Stanton, Louis
Ferris, Gloria Wing, Don Anderson, Barbara Farr, Andy Sprague

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Rich Furlong, Chairman in the Town
Offices.

Following a brief update on the Post Office by George Robson and Ken Sweetser
regarding potential project locations, the meeting was opened up to public comment.

Barbara Farr of LCPC stated that LCPC sponsored a parking study in the spring of 1997
which reviewed the Village. With re-striping and repaving and landscaping an additional
20 spaces could be added to the municipal lot. It also revealed that if the 2nd Chance
building were moved additional spaces could be provided. The
restriping/paving/landscaping do not require large dollar investments.

Tom Bjerke asked if federal mandates existed to keep the post office in Villages, and if
there was any consideration to building outside the Village.

Gloria Wing stated the importance of keeping post office in Village in regard to senior
citizen access and walking distance.

Andy Sprague stated he had spoken with John Sullivan of the post office who stated the
post office would like to stay downtown, parking could be flexible, a possible upgrade of
the downtown could result.

Lucy Leriche of LHP stated LHP would work in partnership with Louis Ferris for affordable housing above the post office if the Ben Franklin site is chosen.

Louis Ferris expanded on Gloria Wing comment that he would like to keep post office in Village to keep Village viable regarding retailers and the long term plan.

Joie Marshall stated that the Village Trustees would like to keep the post office in the Village. She is also familiar with studies which have revealed the removal of a post office from a downtown can create a ghost town. The Trustees will work with the Village revitalization efforts.

Barbara Farr of LCPC supports the post office remaining in the Village.

Paul Trudell duplicated the above statement by Barb Farr.

Ken Sweetser asked Paul Trudell to circulate his photos from the tree study.

Paul Trudell suggested working with concerned parties to re-allocate existing parking spaces.

Barbara Farr explained the possibility of herring bone parking on one side of Main Street.

Don Anderson stated that the town lost 40 parking spaces in the past years.

Barbara Farr mentioned the August 25th meeting regarding Bypass issues.

Gloria Wing stated that relocation of municipal parking spaces should be discussed with Copley Trust – she didn't think it would be a problem.

Joie Marshall asked why designated areas could not be 10 minute parking.

Louis Ferris mentioned that demolition of the back of his building increased parking by 10 spaces. He would be willing to give the town money for parking improvements if the Ben Franklin site is chosen.

George Robson stated that he tried to get community grants regarding the post office and parking, Village revitalization, but the timing was not feasible.

Barbara Farr stated that by 2003 the Bypass should open.

Gloria Wing asked what is the time frame on post office.

Barbara Farr asked how information is going to get from municipality to post office in Connecticut regarding which location the public feels is most desirable.

Gloria Wing stated she would hate to see a parking garage downtown.

Oneal Demars stated that a 2nd level parking garage would not be aesthetic downtown. He would rather tuck parking spaces where available.

Gary Nolan stated a post office drive – up window would be desirable.

Paul Trudell stated that re-configuring the Union Bank parking lot could gain additional spaces, or possible a parking garage at that site not visible from the street.

Don Anderson stated the oxbow parking could become enforceable long term parking.

Andy Sprague stated an overall plan addressing the Bypass, satellite parking, tree planting etc. would encourage greater use of streets for walking.

Joie Marshall stated that locations of building entrances created a perception of distance and effort required by consumers in regard to parking issues. Trustees have some information regarding modification of power poles/lines.

Sonny Demars stated the post office project is a good opportunity for consideration to be given to where power is connected to buildings, as well as on future projects.

The public portion of the meeting ended at this point. The regular meeting resumed.

Ken suggested requesting the Selectboard(again) to consider hosting a Charette in the Spring of '99

Ken to send copy of meeting minutes to John Sullivan, also forward a copy of request to Copley Selectboard about reconfiguring municipal parking lot.

Review of the minutes of the 8/4/98 meeting were postponed to September 1st.

Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.
Julie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Julia J. Compagna