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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of August 7, 2007

Members Present: Bill Henchey, Richard Duda, Lauren Traister, Kelly Rogers,

Members Absent: John Meyer, Steve Berson, Andrew Volansky

Guests: Community Coordinator Heidi Krantz, Mike Miller, Chip Sawyer (LCPC), Conservation Commissioner Steve Rae

Recorder: Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator (ZA)

Chairman Bill Henchey called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Mike Miller presented a draft update of the Town Plan introduction. New information included a section on why the Town has a plan; what the plan can do, and how the plan is developed. The 'vision statement' in the intro is still under development. Mike suggested a stronger statement in the introduction on the need for economic development to sustain the Town, with emphasis on infrastructure (utilities, telecommunications, roads, and water) needs.

Heidi Krantz reviewed the 'collective vision' of participants in the November 1999 Community Forum Report, noting that many of the same goals and priorities listed then were voiced at this year's community forums.

Bill agreed that economic development is a critical issues for the Town, but said the Town must have a well-thought out plan for that development to allow it to grow in a manner consistent with the diverse views of the community, not just unrestricted growth driven by market forces. He said the vision statement should emphasize balance between the needs for economic and residential development and preservation of existing neighborhoods and uses.

Chip Sawyer reviewed the results of the community planning survey that was conducted in April-May. There were 260 total respondents to the survey. The first seven questions were open text answers, which he said would be tabulated and reviewed separately. The remaining questions were multiple-choice which had specific percentage responses. The answers provide insight on how townspeople feel about a number of development issues. There were clear responses to some questions; others showed split opinions on the question. Overall, he felt that the survey was a useful tool in helping the Planning Commission fashion a vision statement and to guide the development of policies and recommendations for the Town Plan.

Steve Rae highlighted the high percentages of respondents to questions 15 & 16 who favor using planning and regulatory tools to preserve and protect natural features.

Bill agreed the survey results would be helpful and said the results should be made available to the public as soon as they were complete. Heidi suggested getting the newspapers to do an article on the survey findings.

The members reviewed the revised Planning Services Contract and Bill agreed to attend the next Select Board meeting to urge its approval.

The members agreed to recommend to the Select Board that the Town apply for a FY 2008 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) to study options for improvements to the downtown traffic pattern. The ZA will prepare a memo from the Planning Commission to the Select Board for their August 27th meeting to solicit their approval. Once approved by the Select Board, LCPC will assist in the preparation of the grant application in order to meet the September 28th deadline.

Bill asked all PC members to write up their own draft vision statement to discuss at the next meeting on August 21st. The ZA noted that the DRB members would be invited to that meeting to share their thoughts on the Town Plan and on specific zoning bylaw issues they would like addressed in the next update.

The ZA provided information on a community development conference, titled 'Community Matters 07, Growth and Character: Having it All', presented by the Orton Family Foundation in Burlington in October. Any members wishing to attend the three-day conference should sign up with him.

Minutes of the July 17, 2007 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Leonard, recorder

Minutes approved on: 8/21/07 LS/RD