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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of July 18, 2006

Members Present: Bill Henchy, John Meyer, Kelly Rogers, Steve Berson, Lauren Traister

Members Absent: Richard Duda, Andrew Volansky

Guests: Heidi Krantz (Community Coordinator)

Recorder: Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator (ZA)

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The ZA reviewed the timeline and requirements for applying for a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG). After previously considering applying for an MPG for the Village Traffic Realignment study, the members discussed the need to prepare for the Town Plan revision. The revised Town Plan must be completed and approved by March 2008. The current round of MPG applications would fund projects in 2007 through early 2008. The town has previously relied on MPG funds to contract with LCPC for the Town Plan updates. Members agreed to give the Town Plan revision priority for this year's MPG and to seek alternate funding opportunities (such as the Downtown Transportation Fund or AOT grants) to conduct the village traffic realignment study.

Members discussed how to approach the Town Plan revision. Heidi Krantz noted that recent Community Forum resulted in broad recognition of the need for a town vision. Other recent issues, such as the sewer line extension proposals, also highlighted the need for broad-based input on the challenges of economic development, affordable housing, and environmental protection. All agreed that the Town Plan revision presented an opportunity to address these needs and that a much better effort at gathering input from all sectors of the community was needed if there is to be a true consensus on a town vision to guide that revision. A first step in this process will be to meet with LCPC planners, the Select Board, and other stakeholders to lay out a strategy and timeline for this task.

The ZA said he'd been contacted by a representative from Quiznos, which is planning to open a shop in the former Kinney space in Morrisville Plaza. The representative expressed concern about the recently adopted prohibitions on new internally illuminated signs. The ZA informed the members of a pending sign permit application by Peebles, who is also setting up in the Morrisville Plaza, that sought to replace the existing internally illuminated Kinney sign on the building façade with one for Peebles.

The members expressed their view that the new sign bylaws do not allow the replacement of an existing internally illuminated sign with a different sign. The ZA said that he would deny the permit and let the applicant take the issue to the DRB on appeal, if they so choose. Bill said that if it is appealed the PC would want to send a letter to the DRB explaining their intent to prohibit any new internally illuminated signs when they revised the sign bylaws.

Bill asked the ZA to check temporary signs along Stagecoach Road for a farm stand on Lyle McKee Road.

The ZA advised that he was trying to schedule a meeting with the planning consultant (LandWorks) on the downtown zoning review for the next meeting on August 1st. He presented the written report by Mike Miller of LCPC on airport zoning options and asked members to review it for discussion on August 1st.

On a motion by Steve, seconded by Lauren, minutes of the June 20, 2006 meeting were approved as presented. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Leonard, recorder

Minutes approved on: 8/1/06