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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of July 17, 2007

Members Present: Bill Henchey, Richard Duda, Lauren Traister, Andrew Volansky, Kelly Rogers, Steve Berson

Members Absent: John Meyer

Guests: Town Administrator Dave Crawford, Community Coordinator Heidi Krantz, Mike Miller (LCPC), Conservation Commissioner Steve Rae, Marci Young

Recorder: Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator (ZA)

Chairman Bill Henchey called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The main agenda item was a review of the Transportation chapter of the Town Plan. Before moving to that, Mike Miller addressed several changes to the Economic Development chapter he planned to make, incorporating comments made by LEDC director Tim Soule at the June 5th meeting. He then reviewed the current Transportation chapter, which lists the main transportation infrastructure (roads, bridges, airport) and modes in the town.

Resident Marci Young said she would like to see more emphasis in the plan on public transportation alternatives to individual cars. She stated her deep concern about climate change issues. She suggested using the school buses as part of a public transportation system, as well as encouraging more people to share rides. She also described a "car-sharing" program that is being started in several US cities and towns.

She asked for more information on bicycle and pedestrian options, noting that the "Bicycle & Pedestrian" section of the plan mostly addressed existing trail systems, with little on how to make these modes of transportation more available to people. She also suggested including bike lanes in the town road standards so that new development would incorporate them.

Bill pointed out the advisory (vs regulatory) nature of the Town Plan, adding that the plan's goals, policies, and recommendations do carry weight when pursuing grant funding and revising the town's zoning bylaws and other regulatory tools.

Mark reviewed the remainder of the Town Plan update schedule. He noted that the Land use chapter, with five meetings dedicated to that topic, was coming up beginning in August. Bill said he would encourage the DRB to participate in these discussions as they are the ones who have to implement any zoning changes that may arise from the new Town Plan, as well as deal with any deficiencies or ambiguities of the current bylaws. *(note: there are no DRB hearings scheduled in August; the DRB should be invited to the August 21st Planning Commission meeting.)*

Steve Rae suggested creating a new recreation chapter, drawing from portions of the Economic Development and Community Facilties, Utilities, & Services chapters.

Dave Crawford discussed the proposed Planning Services contract with LCPC that would provide ten hours a week of dedicated planning services to the Town. The intent is to give the Planning Commission some professional staff support. He reviewed the planning consultant's roles and responsibilities under the contract. He suggested revisions to the Oversight section of the contract to emphasize the Planning Commission's primary role in the contract. He hopes to incorporate any contract changes he gets from the PC by email in time to present the contract to the Select Board for its approval on August 13th.

Dave provided an update on several downtown projects: the Portland Street sidewalk improvements and a potential $70K grant to run existing power lines on the east side of Portland Street underground.

Due to the length of the meeting, discussion of possible FY 2008 municipal planning grant (MPG) projects was deferred to the next meeting. Agenda for the next meeting includes a review of the community survey results, discussion of a 'vision statement' for the Town Plan, and the FY 2008 MPG application.

Minutes of the June 5, 2007 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Leonard, recorder

Minutes approved on: 8/7/07