

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
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Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 7 July 2020

Council Members Present: Allen Van Anda, Steven Foster (electronically), and Etienne Hancock (Chair)

Council Members Absent: Joshua Goldstein, and Tom Snipp

Guests: Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff, Dan Barrett, Grant Wieler, Judy and Dick Shanley

Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Call to Order: Chair Hancock called the meeting to order in the Community Meeting Room of the Old Tegu Theatre, 43 Portland Street, at approximately 6:05 P.M.

Prior meeting minutes – Member Foster moved to approve the June 23rd meeting minutes. A vote of 3-0 affirmed the motion.

Discuss: Fairwood Parkway neighborhood rezoning to Low Density Residential – Grant Wieler, Dan Barrett, Judy and Dick Shanley appeared before the Council to request the downzoning of their Fairwood Parkway neighborhood. Mr. Thomas provided old meeting minutes and hearing notices, and explained how the Council previously approved this same downzoning request, but the Selectboard voted against it (vote taken at its 6/26/2017 meeting). Dan Barrett said additional development was not desired in the neighborhood. Dick Shanley said that Fairwood Parkway should have the same low density zoning as the Jersey Way neighborhood. The Council Members present expressed support for the requested rezoning. Chair Hancock said he would call for a vote on including this downzoning request within the 2021 zoning change package at the July 28th Planning Council meeting. Mr. Thomas said that he would propose a revision to the zoning map, and an associated district description, for that meeting.

Discuss: 2020 Zoning change hearing – Mr. Thomas noted that a sentence was added to the conservation subdivision bylaw regarding open space protections, and previously warned deletions within that bylaw were dropped, before it was warned for Trustee and Selectboard approval. The warned Legislative Body public hearings will take place on Wednesday August 19th (Trustees at Village Offices) and on Tuesday September 8th (Selectboard at Town Offices). The Fairwood parkway neighbors in attendance were encouraged to attend the Selectboard meeting even though the zoning change for their neighborhood would not be legally warned until 2021.

Discuss: Elmore Mtn Foothill downzoning – Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff said that he wanted to revise his earlier proposal to downzone the foothill of Elmore Mountain by limiting the 10 acre lot sizes to the Goddard Nisbet area. Chair Hancock said that time would be added to the July 28th agenda to evaluate this request. Mr. Thomas said that he would aid the proposal by mapping natural resource clusters.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM, submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director