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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of July 7, 2009

Members Present: Bill Henchey, Kelly Rogers, Max Paine, Reeves Larson, John Meyer, Paul Griswold

Members Absent: Andrew Volansky

Staff: Mark Leonard (Morristown ZA), Bill Rossmassler (LCPC Planner)

Chairman Bill Henchey called public meeting to order at 7:00 pm. On a motion by Max, seconded by Reeves, minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Bill R reviewed the draft LCPC planner contract for the coming fiscal year (FY10, beginning July 1, 2009), which provides 432 hours of contract planning services. The planner contract is awaiting review & approval by the LCPC director before being submitted to the Town for its approval. He also reviewed FY 10 task priorities listed in the contract that the Planning Commission had previously identified:

- Route 100 corridor zoning review
- Town infrastructure plan
- Business Enterprise District (BED) master plan
- Other supplemental tasks

Referring to the last item, Bill H reiterated the Planning Commission's position that it should not have a lead role in developing a Capital Budget & Plan for the Town while acknowledging a supporting role.

Bill H discussed the status of the proposed set of bylaw changes that are awaiting action by the Select Board. The ZA stressed the need for action on the proposed changes, suggesting that the Select Board could adopt the majority of the changes, those that there is consensus and agreement on, and defer action on the most contentious proposals if they so desired.

Bill H thought it might be useful to give the Select Board a mini-presentation, position paper, or letter further explaining the Commission's position on the outstanding issues and highlighting the fact that the changes could be 'fine-tuned' as necessary in future amendments. He asked Bill R to draft a letter and circulate it among the Commission members, with the goal of having it presented to the Select Board at their July 13th meeting.

Bill R said applications for Municipal Planning Grants (MPGs) were due to the State by September 30th. This would mean the PC would have to submit any MPG proposal to the Select Board by the end of August. He noted there was less grant money available this year than in preor years and that any application would need to be well-supported to be competitive He asked if members had any ideas or suggestions for an MPG application.

Bill R mentioned the idea of a grant to help obtain 'scenic byway designation' along an as-yet-to-be defined segment of Route 100. Paul G asked what a scenic byway is and what benefits and restrictions come with such designation. Bill R said he would provide a web link to the AOT site addressing this. The ZA said there had been several Route 100 studies completed in the recent past and suggested reviewing these as a starting point for any Route 100 zoning discussions.

Bill H said the Town had sought a grant last year for a master plan of the BED which was not successful. He wondered whether we should try again. Bill R said he would review last year's application to see where it might be improved to be more competitive this time around.

Kelly Rogers stated her intention to step down from the Commission at the end of August. The ZA asked if she would provide a letter of resignation so that the replacement process could begin.

The ZA noted that he receives copies of Act 250 permit applications and approved permits on behalf of the Commission He advised he can scan these into an email for distribution to the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Minutes approved on: 7/21/09 MP/JM
Mark Leonard