

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Commission

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Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2013

Planning Commission Members Present: Andrea Caldwell, Paul Griswold (Chair), Etienne Hancock, Reeves Larson, Max Paine & Mark Struhsacker

Planning Commission Members Absent: Tom Snipp

Staff: Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator & Planner

Guests: Selectboard Chair Bob Beeman, Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff and residents Marci Young, Buckwheat Lowe and Rowan Lovell.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Approve prior meeting minutes – Member Paine moved to approve the May 7th meeting minutes. A vote of 5-0-1 affirmed the motion, with Member Larson abstaining.

Public Hearing: Morristown/Morrisville 2013 Town Plan – Zoning Administrator Thomas opened the hearing by describing the statutory requirements of the Town Plan update process. Mr. Thomas then went on to differentiate the 2008 version of the Town Plan from the 2013 proposed Town Plan. Mr. Thomas noted that the 2013 Town Plan was in many cases a simple update to the 2008 Town Plan, but that some policies were changed. Mr. Thomas noted that the proposed update to the Town Plan changed the Town's policy on wind energy, whereas the previous plan was pro wind, but the new plan opposed utility scale wind installations (but still supported smaller "community scale" wind). The Commission discussed the land use section of the proposed plan, especially the lands where business zoning may be added. Resident Buckwheat Lowe said that more business needs to be added to the south end of Town, especially with the Truck Route under construction. Mr. Lowe asked the Planning Commission to prioritize his parcel on the corner of Goeltz Road and LaPorte Road for business zoning. The Commission decided to take away the prioritization from all the lands that were slated to be evaluated for business zoning. The Commission also decided to add a caveat to this proposed language so that potentially more than one or two sites could be changed to business zoning if the need was demonstrated and, most importantly, the Business Enterprise Zone land that Bishop Marshall owns remained not for sale. Resident Marci Young asked the Planning Commission to add language about environmental sensitivity to the plan's support for natural gas being brought to Town. Ms. Young also requested that the Commission consider adding language to the proposed Town Plan regarding energy efficiency, a no idling policy for the Town's non-emergency response vehicles and support for electric vehicle charging stations. The Commission agreed to all of these changes and instructed Mr. Thomas to include them in a revised version of the Town Plan. The Commission closed the hearing on the proposed 2013 Morristown/Morrisville Town Plan and by a motion made by Member Struhsacker, forwarded the as-revised Town Plan to the Legislative Bodies for approval. A vote of 6-0 affirmed the motion.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM – submitted by Todd Thomas, ZA