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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 748
MORRISVILLE, VT 05661
Phone (802) 888-6373
Fax (802) 888-6378

Minutes of May 21, 2002

Members Present: Kevin Lane, Bill Bourne, Bill Henchey, Kelly Rogers, Julia Compagna (arrived late)

Members Absent: Sam Guy, Bruce Tomlinson

Recorder: Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator

Guests: Mike Miller (LCPC Planner), Kathleen O'Neill (Conservation Commission), Hank Glowiak, Bill Westerman

Kelly Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

The meeting will review the Scenic and Historic Resources section of the Town Plan. Mike Miller reviewed the current Scenic and Historic Resources section and explained the Planning Commission's timeline for revising the whole plan.

Kathleen O'Neill said the plan should identify historic buildings to enable the town to work with property owners on obtaining preservation or restoration funds. The plan should include an action plan to help owners of properties deemed to be threatened by development. Mike said the state has a list of designated historic buildings we can obtain to start with.

Hank Glowiak said he would like to see the area around Lake Lamoille, including the MW&L, Ken Harvey, and CREW properties, preserved in their natural state. Bill Henchy noted that CREW has set up a buffer zone to protect the scenic and natural resources on its property.

Bill Westerman said the plan should identify existing trail networks, especially those on public lands, and identify those areas where trails could be expanded or extended.

Bill Henchy asked what those in attendance wanted to see in this section. Mike Miller suggested four main topics of concern: Cell phone towers in scenic areas, ridge line development, the Route 100 corridor, and the downtown historic district. Kathleen said the plan should consider whether additional zoning districts and/or restrictions should be created in the Rural Residential with Agriculture district. Kevin said that recommendations and actions in the plan must be specific in order to successfully obtain grant funds and otherwise execute the plan.

Kathleen pointed out the need to have broader community input on a document as important as the Town Plan. She suggested organizing a 'Community Forum', similar to the 'Our Town' forum held several years ago which resulted in the formation of the Conservation Commission, River Arts, and several other community action groups, as well as the hiring of a Community Coordinator. Such a forum would take time to properly organize and would have to be held within the Town Plan revision timeline in order to feed its results into the plan. The planning, conduct, and reporting of findings from such an event would likely require outside consultants. She said she had discussed this idea with Heidi Krantz, the community coordinator, who indicated that there may be grant money available now to pursue this idea. Bill Henchy said he preferred some sort of survey or referendum to gauge public sentiment on the major issues facing the town. Kathleen asked for the Commission's support of this idea. The members agreed to support it and asked Kathleen to work with Heidi to make it happen. On an unrelated note, she

raised the idea of establishing some sort of funding source to provide resources for the Conservation Commission to acquire properties or development rights.

Kelly passed along the proposed town logo which John Sargent had developed; all agreed it looked good. The Select Board still must approve the design.

Julia reviewed mail; nothing significant received.

The next meeting will be on June 4, 2002 at the Municipal Office building. It will be a status review of the plan revision to date and discussion of any adjustments to the remaining schedule. The next public hearing on a specific topic will be on June 18, addressing the Education section of the town plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Leonard, recorder

Cc: Town of Morristown Select Board
Morristown/Morrisville Development Review Board
Town Clerk