

**MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of May 6, 1997

Members Present: George Robson, Sam Guy, Pat McCulloch, and Jane Greene

Members Absent: Rich Furlong

Guest: Eric Beckstrom, Dan Demars, Jeanne Grassetto, Ken Sweetser and Barb Farr

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Sam Guy, Chair.

Sam asked Ms. Grassetto if they could help her with anything.

She said she was there to take note for Louis Ferris.

Sam explained that they no longer hold hearing, but that she was welcome to stay. She would get a copy of our minutes for tonight as she had signed in.

George made a motion to go into an executive session at 7:10 P.M. to interview Dan Demars first and then Eric Beckstrom second

Sam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Pat made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:05 P.M.

George seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Barb Farr asked the Planning Commission to clear up some of the rumors on the Tegu building. She has heard rumors that the Planning Commission is opposed to having LCPC, LEDC, LCCC and LHP going into the Tegu building because of parking. The four agencies wish to co-locate in the Morrisville downtown. She needs to know if the Planning Commission is against their moving downtown.

Pat and Sam feel that parking is a problem in the downtown for merchants and are concerned about 14 parking space being used all day long. There is a parking study currently underway, and is being done during the merchants slow period, not December crunch time.

George asked what do we wish to see downtown? If we want business district downtown then we should only allow retail shops, as offices break up the retail too much and can hurt its long term survival. Our focus has been retail in the past and not offices to keep the downtown viable.

Pat talked at about parking in the municipal lot could improve if we can find parking areas for employees, commuters, tenant parking, vehicles that stored there in the winter and/or do not move for days on end. Other options for parking are parking employee and commuter vehicles could be parked VFW parking lot, if a deal could be reached, or at the oxbow parking lot. The oxbow parking lot will need better lighting, as well as, from the Bijou to the parking lot. The police will need to make regular checks on the lot for security of the vehicles. Employees and Commuters should not be take parking spaces away from the stores during their stores busy time. Long term parking is a problem in the lot and something needs to be done.

No one disagreed with Pat on parking, but old habits of parking close to work are going to be hard to break. Other arrangements would need to take place before employees can be asked to park elsewhere.

Pat said tenants who park on the street and cannot due so in winter, so they park in the municipal lot. The downtown merchant may get together as a group to see what can be done.

George feels that a Town Ordinance should be written to better control the municipal lot.

Barb Farr said that Ken Gibbons has told her that the bank cannot spare any more spots in their parking area as it is overcrowded already. If they are allowed to go into the Tegu building the front window will used for displaying Lamoille County products, there will be a community bulletin board, and public restrooms for people shopping downtown. She asked Sam to pole the members as to there feeling on the organizations going into the Tegu building.

Jane has no problem with and is glad to see something going into the building.

Pat would prefer a retail store and feels that once the building is up graded some retail store would go in there within 60 days, but he will go along with it with reservations.

Sam agreed with Pat and has the same reservations.

George will go along with the plans, but notes his earlier objections, as to what we want to see downtown.

The Commission discussed the Godfrey/Union Bank matter on breaking the property into three lots without a subdivision permit and they are creating an illegal lot. The DRB has asked Steve Stitzel to look into this situation and give us his opinion. George and Jane feel that we have been consistent in the past that when contiguous properties are purchased that they become one lot.

Used car sales and non registered vehicles. George feels that it should be controlled by the legislative body and then through a Town Ordinance. That our police department can control it, as they deal with all other aspect of motor vehicles in the town. The Planning Commission does not want the Zoning Administrator policing motor vehicles.

The minutes of April 1, 1997, were tabled until May 20th as there is not a quorum of members present at that meeting to approve the minutes.

George made a motion to approve the minutes of April 22nd the joint meeting of the DRB and PC as corrected.

Jane seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Note: that the minutes of April 22nd were approved by both Boards with different corrections.

Sam made motion to forward the names of Eric Beckstrom and Dan Demars to the Select Board to fill the vacancies on the Planning Commission.

Pat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Commission asked Ken to send letters to Alan Godin and Roy Marble to let them know that they have not been chosen to fill the vacancies at this time, but that their names will be on file and we may ask them in the future, if they are still interested, should another vacancy arise. Ken will prepare a letter to the Select Board, as to whom we are recommending to fill the vacancies on the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the different maps/photos resources that we have for their use and feel that we will need to keep our resources current for planing and zoning purposes.

Jane made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 P.M.

Pat seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Sweetser, Scribe.