

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council

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Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2016

Planning Council Members Present: Andrea Beeman, Paul Griswold (Chair), Etienne Hancock, Max Paine & Mark Struhsacker

Planning Council Members Absent: Yvette Mason & Tom Snipp

Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Guests: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order in the Community meeting Room of the Town Offices at 43 Portland Street at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Discussion: Discussion: Review Summer 2016 zoning change package – Mr. Thomas led the Council through proposed zoning changes for this spring / summer. The Council preliminarily approved of all the proposed zoning changes with the following exceptions:

1. The proposed elimination of telephone and cable infrastructure requirements for all new subdivisions lots did not move forward.
2. The definition for a shelter was amended so it had to be a 24 hour operation.
3. A transient lodging facility use (<9 guest rooms) was added to the Hospital Zone.

The Council also reviewed the multi-family mapping of the Medium Density Residential Zone requested at the last meeting. The Council looked at the apartment conversions from Congress Street east and spoke about the Town Plan's goal to increase home ownership in the Village. It was decided that this would be the response if anyone questioned eliminating the Dwelling Unit Multi-Family use in the MDR & LDR Zone. Mr. Thomas reminded the Council that these changes are density neutral at worst, as this zoning change package also shrank the minimum lot size in each of these zones.

Discussion: Rte 12, Rte 15A & Copley Ave intersection – The Council began a discussion of this intersection and its problems during school drop-off and pick-up hours. Member Caldwell said that this intersection need to be improved and the Selectboard would be interested to see the Council's comments regarding this issue. Member Hancock spoke about the Copley Ave one-way change proposal and said that the elementary school's access point on Park Street was also challenging. Member Hancock said he preferred the roundabout suggestion as his preferred alternative to improve the Copley Ave intersection. Member Paine suggested creating the Rte. 12 access to the school that was discussed in the report to greatly reduce school-time congestion. It was decided that Mr. Thomas would write a letter to the Selectboard regarding this intersection report highlighting the roundabout, the Copley Ave one-way and new Rte. 12 access point alternatives. Mr. Thomas said he would present this letter at the next meeting

Approve prior meeting minutes – Member Paine moved to approve the April 5, 2016 minutes. A vote of 4-0-1 affirmed the motion with Member Beeman abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM – submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director