# Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council

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## Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 13 April 2021

**Council Members present:** Allen Van Anda, Steven Foster, Joshua Goldstein (via phone)**,** Etienne Hancock (Chair), and Tom Snipp
**Council Members absent:**
**Guests present:** Selectwoman Judy Bickford, Selectman Gary Nolan, Development Review Board Member Melissa LeBlanc, Stephen Jennings, Conservation Commission Members Ron Stancliff & Kristen Connolly
**Staff:** Planning Director Todd Thomas

**Call to Order:** Chair Hancock called the meeting to order adjacent to the veranda of Copley Country Club at approximately 5:00 P.M.

**Prior meeting minutes** – Member Snipp moved to approve the March 23rd minutes. A vote of 3-0-1 affirmed the motion, with Member Foster abstaining and Member Goldstein arriving just after the vote.

**Discuss: Minor sign bylaw changes for count and illumination** – Mr. Thomas proposed a small zoning revision to the existing sign bylaw, by (1) adding avoid light pollution to its purpose, and (2) codifying the existing practice of allowing two signs per business (roadside, façade, or any combination thereof). Chair Hancock asked Mr. Thomas to clarify the light pollution goal. He said he would do so by tying the proposed new anti-light pollution purpose to §477 of the Bylaw, which actually regulates sign illumination, to provide the specificity requested. The Council was amenable to these sign bylaw zoning changes, as amended, and agreed to include them as part of the Fall 2021 zoning changes.

**Discuss: Intersection of Congress St & Cherry Ave** – The Council discussed a draft letter to the Selectboard that contained a menu of proposals intended to improve the safety of the intersection of Congress Street & Cherry Avenue. The Council Members, and neighboring property owners Stephen Jennings and Kristen Connolly, discussed the proposals contained in the letter. Selectboard Member Gary Nolan contributed to this discussion as well. It was decided that the letter would be revised to ask the Selectboard to take the following actions this summer to improve the safety of this intersection: (1) install more obvious and better placed speed limit signs on Congress Street, (2) contact local employers (ex. Copley Hospital) and local service providers (ex. Myers Container Service) to ask them to remind their employees to respect the speed limit in this area, (3) add back the center-line and fog-line striping on Congress Street (which was previously shown to reduce travel speeds), (4) square off Cherry Ave where it intersects Congress Street while adding in an extra sidewalk segment on two in the saw-cut area at the northeast corner of this intersection, and (5) paint a new crosswalk across Congress Street close to the north side of the Jennings' driveway at 202 Congress Street. Mr. Thomas said he would revise the draft letter accordingly for review at the next Council meeting.

**Continued Public Hearing: Town Plan comments** – Mr. Thomas resumed the continued public hearing for the proposed Morrisville/Morristown 2020-2030 Town Plan by walking Council Members through minor changes made to the plan since the last meeting. These changes, which resulted in the 9th version of the proposed Town Plan, included substantial input from village resident Hillary Warner, and minor language changes from the MW&L. Member Van Anda and Member Snipp discussed the digester language that was recently added back into the Town Plan, and the capacity of the existing power grid in relation thereto. Member Van Anda asked how a decision to include supporting a digester, or not, in the Town Plan could be made without answering the underlying question regarding the capacity of the grid. Mr. Snipp said that the Trustees has previously voted to remove this digester language from the Town Plan, but clarified that he was a Planning Council member when he attended these Planning Council meetings, and he was not speaking as a Village Trustee, or on behalf of the Trustees. A brief discussion also took place regarding revised trailer park language that was recently added to the Housing Chapter of the Town Plan. Upon a request from Selectwoman Judy Bickford, in an effort to increase the availability of affordable and lower income housing within the town, the Council agreed to add language to the Town Plan supporting a study of the adoption of inclusionary zoning study therein, if such a program can be shown to not overburden town staffing and/or resources. A vote of 4-1 affirmed this motion with Member Foster in opposition. The evening's Town Plan discussion ended with the reminder that the Selectboard and Village Trustees were planning to meet at the end of May to find common ground on the remaining unresolved Town Plan issues.

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The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM, submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director