

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
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Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 12 April 2022

Council Members present: Allen Van Anda, Steven Foster, Joshua Goldstein, Etienne Hancock (Chair), and Tom Snipp

Council Members absent:

Guests present: Selectboard Members Brian Kellogg and Don McDowell, Conservation Commission Co-Chair Ron Stancliff, Ruth Brown, Pat Mickelson, Laura Nepveu, and Denise Trombley

Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Call to Order: Chair Hancock called the meeting to order in the Community Room of the Old Tegu Theatre at approximately 5:00 P.M.

Prior meeting minutes – Member Snipp moved to approve the March 22nd minutes. A vote of 3-0 affirmed the motion, with Members Foster & Van Anda abstaining.

Discuss: Complete Jersey Heights / LaPorte Road sidewalk in 2023 – Mr. Thomas provided an updated cost estimate of \$173,000 to fill the sidewalk gaps on Jersey Heights and LaPorte Road, which, if approved, would connect the Bishop Marshall School to downtown Morrisville for the first time. He added that the cost estimate would balloon to \$323,000 if Federal Funds were used for this project. Member Foster moved to forward the \$173,000 B Street to BJAMS cost estimate to the Selectboard as a request for a 2023 Town Meeting ballot item. Mr. Thomas reminded the Council Members that the Selectboard, at its May 2nd meeting, would also be asked to approve the sidewalk layout change in front of 485 & 511 Jersey Heights (as part of the larger previously approved B Street to BJAMS Sidewalk Scoping Study). Unrelated to this agenda item, Park Street residents Ruth Brown and Pat Mickelson spoke to the Planning Council regarding their effort to restore the sidewalk on the south side of Park Street. Said effort was determined to be an item that was actively in front of the Selectboard, and therefore currently outside the purview of the Planning Council.

Discuss: Airport Industrial Zone #5 & Business Services Definition – Council Members discussed how comfortable they were with the previously agreed upon pending change to the Business Services definition that would allow business to business retail sales in the airport area, and other industrial zones. Council Members speculated what kinds of businesses would look to locate in the new airport industrial park if the additional retail allowance was approved. After an extended discussion, Member Foster moved to remove the proposed sentence from the Business Services definition that would add business to business retail sales in the Industrial Zones. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 5-0.

Discuss: §207 Historic Preservation Criteria Changes – Mr. Thomas led the Council through additional revisions to the §207 Historic Preservation Criteria of the Zoning Bylaws. Member Goldstein said that the proposal was now clear and understandable. The

Council, by consensus, agreed that proposed prescriptive approach was preferred, as opposed to establishing a separate Design or Historical Review Board. Denise Trombley, who owns a significant property within the area that would be newly regulated by these changes, expressed concern that the revisions will make new development too expensive. Chair Hancock asked for Development Review Board Member, and local architect, Paul Trudell to appear at the April 26th Planning Council meeting so he could opine on the proposed §207 Historic Preservation Criteria language. Chair Hancock also noted that he was still waiting for a response from Devin Coleman of the VT Department of Historic Preservation regarding an exemption for previously approved historic preservation tax credit projects that do not fully comply with the proposed local zoning. Member Foster asked Mr. Thomas, per §207.4, to bring in the write-up and any available pictures, of the remaining Contributing Structures in the Morrisville Historic District to the next Planning Council meeting.

Discuss: 2022 Meeting Schedule & Location – Planning Council Members discussed their 2022 meeting schedule, as drafted and proposed by Mr. Thomas. It was decided that the August 9th and December 27th meetings would be cancelled because staff would not be available. The November 8th meeting would also be cancelled due to the election day meeting room conflict if an alternate handicapped accessible space could not be found. It was also decided that Planning Council meetings would move back up to the Village owned Copley Country Club property starting in May. Planning Council meetings held under the tent up at the golf course will take place from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM (instead of the recent 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM meeting times).

Discuss: Morrisville/Morristown 2030 Town Plan – Planning Council Members discussed recent Selectboard directed additions to the Town Plan regarding funding a new emergency services building. Council Members expressed a desire for this language to be removed from the plan so the scheduled May 2nd (Selectboard) and May 5th (Village Trustees) public hearings could take place. Mr. Thomas explained that the Selectboard would be discussing this exact item in about 15 minutes at a specially called meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM, submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director