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MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
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Minutes of March 5, 2002

Members Present: Bill Bourne, Bill Henchey, Kevin Lane, Sam Guy, Bruce Tomlinson, Kelly Rogers,

Members Absent: Julia Compagna

Recorder: Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator

Guests: Mike Miller, LCPC Planner

Sam Guy, co-chair, formally called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

The Commission began its revision of the Town Plan by reviewing the Energy chapter. Mike Miller, working under a grant for the Town Plan revision, has made a cursory review of the plan so far. Bill H asked what the town's role and responsibility is for the Energy section. Mike said the focus of the Energy section should be efficiency and conservation: where do we get our energy and how can we use it most efficiently. The plan should attempt to identify energy distribution infrastructure needs in the community. By identifying such needs in the Town Plan, these potential projects would be more likely to meet various grant requirements.

Sam asked how much of the energy section should be coordinated with Morrisville Water & Light. Mike replied that the Energy section of the plan overlaps with the Transportation and Community Facilities, Utilities & Services sections of the plan and as such MW&L should be involved.

Bill H. questioned whether the plan should address alternate energy sources. Mike said a goal should be to promote renewable energy sources. Several members asked if doing this could possibly oblige the Planning Commission or DRB to allow projects or uses which might not otherwise be permitted (e.g., wind power generating towers on ridge lines). The consensus of opinion was that such language in the Town Plan would not force uses on the town, but could be the basis for amendments to the zoning bylaws. Mark was asked to check on any current language in the bylaws addressing renewable energy sources.

Mike indicated that developing policies and recommendations that could be implemented at the municipal level is difficult. Any policies and recommendations would be general in nature and should broadly support the goals of energy efficiency and conservation.

The commission discussed the game plan and timeline for reviewing the remainder of the Town Plan. Mark and Mike will develop a proposed schedule of meetings to cover all the section and identify organizations and groups who should be specifically asked to participate in those meetings. Some sections will need to be reviewed at later dates than others as key information (2000 Census data, Municipal Facilities Study, etc) won't be available until summer/fall. The meetings, and purpose of the Town Plan, should be well-publicized; articles in the newspaper and hearing notices should be published.

Mark advised that there will be a seminar on Amending Bylaws, sponsored by VLCT, on March 20, 2002 (the evening following the next Planning Commission meeting). Kevin indicated he would attend with Mark.

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Minutes of the last meeting (Feb 19, 2002) were reviewed. On a motion by Kelly, seconded by Sam, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be on March 19, 2002 at the Water & Light Department building on Elmore St. Agenda items will include: Town Plan Development Schedule and hearing schedule for Bylaw Amendments.

Bill H moved and Bruce seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Leonard, recorder

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