

Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
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Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 23 February 2021

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

Council Members absent: Steven Foster

Guests present: Keith & Jacky Geisler, Seth Jensen, Bob Verrico, Selectwoman Judy Bickford, Village Trustee Bob Heanue, MW&L General Manager Penny Jones, Brian Levin, Roger Whitten

Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Call to Order: Chair Hancock called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom at approximately 5:05 P.M.

Public Hearing: Town Plan comments – A public hearing for the proposed Morrisville/Morristown Town Plan commenced electronically via Zoom on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 5:05 P.M. The geographic area impacted is the entirety of the Town of Morristown and the Village of Morrisville. That table of contents / chapters for the proposed plan is as follows: 1-Statement Containing Objectives & Policies, 2-Land Use, 3-Transportation, 4-Utilities & Facility, 5-Historic, Scenic & Natural Resources, 6-Education, 7-Implementation Program, 8-Statement Concerning Development Trends & Adjacent Municipalities, 9-Energy, 10-Housing, 11-Economic Development, 12-Flood Resiliency 13-Wellness. Planning Director Thomas began the meeting by walking the Council through written town plan comments received since the last Council meeting. Comments from MW&L and VPPSA, regarding the plan's energy chapter, were detailed at the meeting by MW&L General Manager Penny Jones, and ultimately accepted into the town plan. Mr. Thomas noted that he received a mailing from the VT Transportation Board regarding helipads and private airstrips. He said he added a few sentences into the plan that limits these uses to the airport Industrial-5 Zone, and, of course, Copley Hospital. Mr. Thomas and the Council also discussed a town plan comment letter received from LCPC. Mr. Thomas said many of the LCPC comments could be satisfied with small plan edits, but that he did not recommend adopting the flood zone and river corridor language as recommended in LCPC's letter. Seth Jensen said that the language directed development outside of flood zones and river corridors needed to be adopted into the plan for it to be regionally approved, but corresponding zoning regulations were not required. A larger discussion then ensued about the plan being regionally approved, which is only required if Morrisville wants to regain its downtown designation. Selectwoman Bickford said that the Selectboard had not thought to contact the Village Trustees about renewing this designation. Council Members pointed out that they were jointly appointed by the Selectboard and the Village Trustees, and that additional direction from both Boards would be appreciated since it was apparent that the two Boards may not be on the same page regarding regaining the designated downtown status. Member Van Anda said that he felt stuck in the middle without further direction being provided by the two Legislative Bodies. Chair Hancock requested this direction in writing from Town Administration or the Selectboard, and from the Village Trustees,

prior to the March 9th Planning Council meeting. Member Snipp suggested slowing down the Town Plan approval process. He added that the 2020 Census data would start to be partially released in the coming weeks, and that he thought it would be prudent if that data was included within the new town plan. Mr. Thomas agreed and said that the new town plan will be read as dated in just a couple years if it relies on the 2010 Census data. Village Trustee Bob Heanue, who worked on the 2020 Census (but said he was not a spokesperson therefor), said that he believed the Census data could be available soon, and should be included in the new town plan. Member Snipp moved to continue the town plan public hearing until March 9th at 5:15 P.M. A vote of 4-0 affirmed the motion.

Prior meeting minutes – Member Snipp moved to approve the February 9th meeting minutes. A vote of 3-0-1 affirmed the motion, with Member Van Anda abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM, submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director