

**MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 748
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Minutes of February 15, 2005

Members Present: Richard Duda, Andrew Volansky, Kelly Rogers, John Meyer

Members Absent: Bruce Tomlinson, Bill Henchy

Guests: Bill Rossmassler (LCPC), Heidi Krantz (Community Coordinator, Chris Ransom

Recorder: Mark Leonard, Zoning Administrator (ZA)

Richard called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Minutes of the February 1, 2005 meeting were reviewed. The ZA advised that Sam Guy had resigned from the commission and that he would be advertising for a replacement.

The evening's focus was to be gathering public comment on the existing sign bylaws and what, if any, changes should be considered. Despite publicizing the meeting and providing local businesses a letter on the topic, only one member of the general public was present to address the issue. One business did provide written comments; another provided a brief letter asking whether existing signs would be 'grandfathered'.

Chris Ransom spoke about preserving the 'historic character' of the central village business area. He felt that internally illuminated signs (which are not currently allowed in this district) detract from that character. He mentioned McDonalds and Cumberland Farms as negative examples of illuminated signs. He said businesses should be able to illuminate their signs while open for business, favoring 'down lit' building-mounted lights. On a separate note, he mentioned that traffic safety signs, such as those marking a pedestrian crossing, are sometimes too small, with some needing repair or replacement when damaged.

Community Coordinator Heidi Krantz mentioned that the upcoming review of downtown zoning bylaws funded by a municipal planning grant will include the issue of signs in the downtown and commercial areas; the review should be completed in late spring, with a report to the Planning Commission.

Bill Rossmassler from LCPC discussed the ongoing efforts to establish a Town Sewer Service Area (TSSA). The VT Sustainable Jobs Fund is working with the Village Trustees, LCPC and the Water & Light Department to provide a more detailed analysis of both village and potential TSSA sewer needs. Part of this effort involves a build-out analysis by LCPC of several scenarios. Bill explained that the group reviewing this project would meet once a month for the next four months. He asked for Planning Commission representation at these meetings. The next meeting will be at the end of March; the ZA will try to attend.

Richard addressed the need and desire to provide training to both new and long-serving members on how to more effectively meet their responsibilities as planning commissioners. The ZA will investigate what training resources (e.g., Orton Foundation, VLCT) and opportunities may be available.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Leonard, recorder

Minutes approved on: _____