Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council
PO Box 748 / Morrisville, VT 05661
Phone (802) 888-6373

Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2018

Planning Council Members Present: Linda Greaves, Paul Griswold (Chair), Etienne Hancock, Max Paine, Tom Snipp, Laura Streets, and Mark Struhsacker
Planning Council Members Absent: None
Guests: Ron Bomer, Kevin Kelley, Tommy Gardner, and Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff
Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas
Call to Order: The meeting was called to order in the Community Meeting Room of the Town Offices at 43 Portland Street at approximately 7:00 P.M. The agenda was amended to include a discussion with Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff.

Discuss: Parking lot banners for a health care facility – Kevin Kelley, CEO of Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley (CHSLV), joined the Council to discuss banners he wanted to hang on the parking lot light poles of CHSLV's new medical building, located across from the hospital. There would be 8 banners, approximately 2'x5' in size. Mr. Kelley said that the banners would advocate for better patient health outcomes, such as reminding people to get their physicals or flu shots. Mr. Thomas said that he would not allow these banners without hearing first from the Council. He added that, as an example, he often confiscates temporary signage from establishments such as Kinney Drugs and Price Chopper advertising flu shots. The Council discussed if an exemption could be written into the zoning for the proposed banners at a non-profit community health facility. Member Struhsacker stressed that any exemption should focus on this non-profit status. Member Snipp said that Section 479b of the zoning bylaws already allows banners for community efforts. Mr. Thomas agreed with Member Snipp and said that any potential bylaw revision for this request belongs in Section 479b. Member Hancock said that he is worried about the unintended consequences of allowing this request. He asked Mr. Kelley if there were any studies showing that this kind of advertising improved patient health outcomes. Mr. Kelley said that he was unaware of any such studies. The Council decided that it needed more time to mull over this request. Mr. Kelley said that he would forward an image of a proposed banner to Mr. Thomas for the next Council meeting. Mr. Thomas added that he would propose revised language under 479b for this next meeting as well.

Discuss (agenda addendum): Conservation Commission Town Meeting survey – Conservation Commission Chair Ron Stancliff appeared before the Council with a revised survey that would be distributed at Town Meeting. It was discussed that this survey, as currently written, would have the Council's name on it as well. Council Members suggested a few questionnaire changes. Upon a motion made by Member Struhsacker, the Council unanimously approved the as-revised survey for Town meeting.

Discuss: MPC Chair requested to attend Selectboard meeting – Chair Griswold informed the other Council members that he had been asked to appear at the February

12th Selectboard meeting, presumably to discuss a post he made on Front Porch Forum regarding the school administration request that seventh grade basketball players provide a letter stating how 6AM basketball practices (due to limited gym availability) affected them during the school day. To assure the students provided their responses, he said that students were informed this was a homework assignment and that this letter was required by Friday or they would not be qualified to play in the next scheduled basketball game. He said that it was only after a complaint from a parent that students who did not provide this requested letter were allowed to take part in the next basketball game. He added that it was very inappropriate to use seventh graders (+- 12/13 year olds) for the administration's effort to sell the gym bond to the community. Mr. Griswold concluded his remarks by saying that nowhere in this Front Porch Forum post did he mention the Planning Council or his position thereon. As such, he said that he was confused as to why the Selectboard agenda item for this requested meeting is listed as a possible Executive Session discussion entitled "Evaluation of a Public Official." Council Members agreed that Mr. Griswold's Front Porch Forum Post had nothing to do with the Planning Council. Council Members further discussed if being a public official somehow abridged their individual rights to free-speech. Mr. Griswold said that he did not think this upcoming agenda item qualified for Executive Session status. As such, he invited other Council Members to attend Monday night's Selectboard meeting.

Discuss: Special requirement exemption in the Commercial Zone – Mr. Thomas presented language changes in the Commercial Zone that would fix the permitting issues brought to light with new Green Mountain Support Services Building on James Road. The Council discussed only requiring that the Commercial Zone's "Special Requirements" be applicable the following streets: Brooklyn, LaPorte, Munson, Stafford, VT Route 15, VT Route 100 & VT Route 100 Alt Truck Route. Stafford Avenue was discussed at length and the Board decided that it wanted any new pad-site building fronting on Stafford Ave, flush to that road, hiding as much of the parking as possible. Chair Griswold pointed out that the requirement for parking to be located on the sides or rear of buildings needed to be clarified regarding primary roads, secondary roads, and corner lots. Via consensus, the Council approved the proposed changes to the Special Requirements section of the Commercial Zone. Mr. Thomas said he would draft revised language at the next meeting regarding the parking question raised by Chair Griswold.

Approve prior meeting minutes – Mr. Thomas said that he was asked to make several revisions to the meeting minutes since he sent out the first draft to Council members. The Council said that requests for revisions to the minutes, as policy, could simply be directed to the Council for consideration in the future. Member Hancock moved to approve the as-revised January 16th meeting minutes. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.
– submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director