Morristown/Morrisville Planning Council

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

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday 21 January 2020

Council Members Present: Steven Foster, Joshua Goldstein, Etienne Hancock (Chair), and Tom Snipp (arrived at the end of the meeting).
Council Members Absent: Allen Van Anda
Guests: John McQueen, Dan McLaughlin, and DRB Members Paul Trudell, Melissa LeBlanc, and Laura Streets
Staff: Planning Director Todd Thomas

Call to Order: Chair Hancock called the meeting to order in the Community Meeting Room of the Old Tegu Theatre, 43 Portland Street, at approximately 6:03 P.M.

Prior meeting minutes – Quorum issues prevented any action on the 1/7/2020 minutes.

Discuss: Commercial Firewood Processing – The Council discussed the regulations for commercial firewood processing that were not approved by the Selectboard in 2017. Zoning Administrator Thomas said that DRB Members Paul Trudell, Melissa LeBlanc, and Laura Streets were in attendance to speak about this subject. Mr. Trudell said that people buying a residentially zoned home should be able to expect peace and quiet, and not the sound of continuous chainsaws. Ms. LeBlanc suggested tying the hours of operation for any commercial firewood processing use to the Town Office's business hours (8am to 4pm Monday through Friday, and from 9am to 12pm on Saturday). It was agreed by consensus that commercial firewood processing should be limited to existing business areas and rural parts of the Town via the following zones: Industrial, Low Density Residential, and Rural Residential Agricultural. It was also decided to reduce the cord limit from the 2017 definition below 300 cords (or board foot equivalent). Mr. Thomas said he would look at how other Vermont municipalities managed this use. When doing so, the Council asked Mr. Thomas to inquire if other towns impose setbacks from proposed commercial firewood processing operations to existing residential homes. Chair Hancock said that any allowance for commercial firewood processing should be codified in the Town's Zoning Bylaw as a Conditional Use only.

Discuss: Meet with School Board and Town Plan Education Chapter – Mr. Thomas noted that a School Board Member was not able to attend this evening's meeting as requested. The Council looked at the post 2010 enrollment numbers provided by school administration, which were largely flat. It was decided to table this discussion, and finalizing the Education Chapter of the Town Plan, until February 4th in hopes that a School Board Member may be able to attend that Council meeting.

Discuss: Town Road Policy – Further discussion of the Town Road policy was tabled until after Town Meeting Day.

_____

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM, submitted by Todd Thomas, Planning Director