

And MORRISTOWN/MORRISVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 748 / MORRISVILLE, VT 05661
Phone (802) 888-6373

Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2013

Present: Etienne Hancock, John Meyer (Chair), Max Paine, Mark Struhsacker & Tom Snipp

Members Absent: Paul Griswold & Reeves Larson

Staff: Todd Thomas, Zoning Administrator & Planner

Guests: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Approve prior meeting minutes – Member Struhsacker moved to approve the January 3rd meeting minutes. The motion was affirmed by a vote of 5-0.

Discussion: PACE Financing – Member Hancock began the meeting by adding a brief agenda item about PACE Financing. Member Hancock said that he recently joined the Town's energy committee and that this committee was evaluating if PACE Financing would be beneficial for Morristown. He added that, at this point, he did not see any drawback for Town Meeting enabling this legislation. Member Hancock said that PACE Financing makes energy efficiency and renewable energy projects much more affordable to the average homeowner by extending the life of the loan and tying it to the property, not the owner. Mr. Thomas said that he would ask the Town Administrator in the morning if the Warrant for Town Meeting was closed.

Discussion: Economic Development Chapter of the Town Plan – Mr. Thomas led the Commission through the proposed changes to the Economic Development Chapter of the Town Plan. The Commission discussed the revised chapter and requested certain changes made thereto, including softening language that called for different zoning for uptown and downtown. Mr. Thomas opined that it would be beneficial for the downtown to get some sort of special consideration in the zoning bylaw; otherwise it has a hard time competing on a cost basis versus uptown. Mr. Thomas said that he would revise the chapter as directed and send it out to the Commission via email for review. The Commission agreed that the as-revised chapter would be ready for inclusion into the Town Plan.

Discussion: Natural Resources Chapter of the Town Plan – Mr. Thomas led the Commission through the proposed changes to the Natural Resources Chapter of the Town Plan. Member Meyer said that the chapter still seemed long and thought it could be streamlined further. The Commission agreed and decided to remove language identifying the small brooks and streams in Town. The Commission also agreed to strike the section that talked about the naming of Molly's and Joe's pond. Mr. Thomas questioned the language in the chapter that called for a 500 foot setback from lakes. The Commission asked him to inquire about this large setback with the State and make appropriate changes to the chapter based on that consultation. Mr. Thomas said that he would revise the

chapter as directed and send it out to the Commission via email for review. The Commission agreed that the as-revised chapter would be ready for inclusion into the Town Plan.

Discussion: Town Plan update schedule – Mr. Thomas said that he would present as finalized a version of the Town Plan as possible for the Commission's next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Thomas, ZA