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MORRISTOWN

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 2, 2025

Members: Don McDowell, Christopher Palermo, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, George Cormier

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Tyler Machia, Zoning Administrator; Chief Jason Luneau

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Dennis Smith, Lorinda Smith, Michelle Parker, Jane Paine, Evelyn & Jerry Throne, Laura Green, Kathleen Kei Lovell, Judy Bickford, Jeff Pignona, Anne Shackett, Etienne Hancock, Brittany Benway, Kyle Rowell, Erika Scott

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER
Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:34PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS
None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS
Kathleen Kei Lovell attended the Selectboard meeting and addressed concerns about the Morristown Police Department's surveillance of a resident's social media account.

5:43PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. **Approve minutes 5-19-25**
   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the minutes of 5-19-25. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (3/0/2) Don McDowell and George Cormier abstained.

5:45PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. **LCPC - Update on the Regional Plan - Tasha Wallis/Seth Jensen**
   Tasha Wallis and Seth Jensen from LCPC discussed housing targets under Act 47, and presented data showing Morristown as the largest population town in the county, though with fewer housing units than Stowe. The discussion highlighted challenges around housing affordability and availability, with Judy Bickford noting that elderly residents want to downsize but have limited options, while young people prefer renting over buying. Tasha and Seth also presented an updated future land use map for Morristown under Act 181, which requires new mapping categories and approval by the Land Use Review Board by December 2026. However, LCPC must complete the map by December 2025 due to the public process for adopting the new regional plan and getting The map includes rural areas, village centers, downtown cores, and planned growth areas, with significant white space indicating areas needing input. The commission explained that while local zoning maps will remain in place, there may be opportunities to align some state designations with local districts, particularly in the village area.

They also discussed the option for Morristown to pursue Tier 1B status, which would increase the Act 250 threshold from 10 to 50 units and provide development exemptions, though this would require further discussion.

2. **Consideration to sign agreement with Lamoille County Sheriff's Department - Dispatch services**

   The board approved an agreement with the Lamoille County Sheriff's department for $160,199.00, which was slightly above the budgeted amount by $2,300.

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to sign an agreement for the provision of services by Lamoille County Sheriff's Department as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

3. **Approve 2025-2026 Tax Anticipation Note**

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to accept the Union Bank Option #1 FY 25-26 tax anticipation loan with reinvestment option of a fixed interest rate of 3.55% as the sole source provider. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

4. **Approve Fireworks Permit**

   a. LACiNg up for Cancer - June 28th

   b. Town of Morristown - 4th of July

   c. Kathy Demars - Private event Earl Grey Road - August 9th

   The Selectboard discussed three separate fireworks applications that the Administration has received. There were some questions regarding the liability due to one of the events being on private property. After consulting the town's underwriter, the Town should have minimal liability exposure for issuing the permits. As long as the permits are issued in accordance with state statute, there shouldn't be much additional liability for the fireworks display. Northstar Fireworks Displays includes the Town and the Property Owner as additional insureds on the certificate of insurance. The additional insured status extends liability coverage to the Town under Northstar's policy for liability related to the fireworks display.

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve fireworks permits by Northstar Fireworks for LACiNg up for Cancer Walk, Town of Morristown 4th of July and Kathy Demars private party and authorize Selectboard Chair, Don McDowell, to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

5. **Appoint Tyler Machia as Health Officer**

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Tyler Machia as the Health Officer for the Town of Morristown and authorize Selectboard Chair, Don McDowell, to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

6. **Appoint Tyler Machia as Administrative Officer AKA Zoning Administrator and Brent Raymond as Assistant Administrative Officer AKA Assistant Zoning Administrator**

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Tyler Machia pursuant to 24 V.S.A. section 4448(a) to serve as the Administrative Officer AKA Zoning Administrator for Town of Morristown, as nominated by the Planning Commission, for a term of three years, who shall administer the bylaws literally and shall not have the power to permit any land development that is not in conformance with those bylaws. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to appoint Brent Raymond as the Assistant Administrative Officer, AKA Assistant Zoning Administrator, with limited duties as presented with the additional word

"documented" added to #2 in front of permission. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

7. **Official receipt of the Proposed 2025 Zoning Bylaws from Planning Commission**
   The board set a public hearing date of June 26th at 5:30 PM to review proposed 2025 zoning bylaws, with Etienne Hancock from the Planning Commission present to answer questions.

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to set the Proposed 2025 Zoning Bylaws public hearing for June 26, 2025 at 5:30pm. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

8. **Discuss the future of MCA**
   The Morristown Cemetery Association (MCA) discussed its future and financial status at a meeting. Dennis Smith, the president, announced his decision not to seek re-election due to the growing complexity of the role and the lack of new members interested in joining. Jane Paine, the treasurer, provided a detailed overview of the association's financial history, highlighting improvements in investment performance and the establishment of an endowment fund. Dennis Smith expressed a desire to dissolve the association, citing fatigue and the need to transfer responsibilities to the town administration, but agreed to continue in a limited role to make the transition as seamless as possible. He sought guidance on how to proceed with their decision to dissolve in the future. The board expressed appreciation for the association's work in improving cemetery management and maintaining historical knowledge.

9. **Review updated Cemetery forms**
   The group discussed unifying the town's cemeteries under one set of rules and regulations, with Dennis Smith presenting proposed changes to the rules and regulations, including updated definitions and restrictions on conduct in the cemeteries. The board agreed to move forward incrementally with the transition of responsibilities to the town administration.

   Dennis Smith explained that post-service committal receptions are prohibited, but brief visits are allowed after burials. He emphasized that all arrangements must go through the sexton, Mike Buchanan, and clarified rules about lot sizes, marker dimensions, and the placement of urns. The group also addressed the use of solar lights in cemeteries. The Selectboard approved new rules & regulations, cemetery fees and forms. The new rates will take effect July 1st, with grandfathered pricing for pre-scheduled services, and the board noted the need to discuss future cremation lot and mausoleum locations at Pleasant View Cemetery.

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to adopt Morristown Cemetery rules and regulations along with the new forms and fees. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

6:50PM - OLD BUSINESS

1. **Street Treats - Itinerant Vendors, Peddlers, Food Sales application continued**
   Brittany presented her plan for operating an ice cream truck in town, proposing one day per week from approximately 4-7 PM, focusing on residential areas. The Selectboard expressed support for the business, though some members raised concerns about traffic and safety, particularly on high-traffic streets. The Selectboard approved the itinerant vendor application, with a permit to operate until November 15, 2025 as the ordinance stipulates.

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the itinerant vendor application submitted by Street Treats Ice Cream Truck, permitting the business to operate within town limits one day a week until

November 15, 2025 and authorized Selectboard Chair, Don McDowell, to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

7:00PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Chris Palermo to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

7:05PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Monday, June 16, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
   Monday, June 26, 2025 - TBD Possible date of SB Public Hearing Zoning Bylaws - 5:30PM
   Monday, July 7, 2025 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
   Corrected: The Selectboard public hearing will be THURSDAY June 26, 2025 at 5:30pm

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to cancel the July 7, 2025, Selectboard meeting and authorize Don McDowell to sign warrants on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (5/0).

7:10PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Executive Session - Legal and Contract Negotiations**
   a. Motion finding that premature public knowledge regarding employee contract negotiations would clearly place the employee and/or town at a substantial disadvantage.
   b. I move to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations, labor relations and civil litigation to which the town is a party and include to include Town Manager, Brent Raymond; Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi; Police Chief, Jason Luneau; Human Resources Director, Elz Townsend; Finance Director, Tina Sweet
   Motion made by Chris Palermo, I move to find that premature public knowledge regarding employee contract negotiations would clearly place the employee and/or town at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

   Motion made by Chris Palermo, I move to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations, labor relations and civil litigation, to which the town is a party and include Town Manager, Brent Raymond; Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi; and Police Chief, Jason Luneau. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

   Motion made by Chris Palermo to come out of Executive Session with no action. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. **Possible vote regarding contract negotiations of a public officer or employee subject to T1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (1) (a).**
   No action taken.

8:00PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm
Submitted and filed June 5, 2025.
Judi Alberi, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.