



**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN SELECTBOARD
MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

On Zoom and at 43 Portland St. Morrisville, VT 05661
5:30 PM Monday, July 20, 2026

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) or by phone join via conference call (audio only): 1 (646) 558-8656 | Meeting ID: [810 342 4528](#) | Passcode 05661

The meeting will be live streamed on the Town of Morristown's website:

<https://www.morristownvt.gov/community/page/meetings-agendas-minutes> and on [Town GMATV YouTube Channel](#) when possible

I. 5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

II. 5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

III. 5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

IV. 5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 7-6-26

V. 5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION:
 - A. Discussion with Planning Commission and LCPC representatives: Data Centers, Earth Extraction and Interim Zoning Bylaws
 - B. Review and discuss the Town Plan Implementation Plan with Planning Commission and LCPC representatives
2. MACC Grant Agreement and Attestation
3. Consideration of discontinuance proceedings under 19 V.S.A. Chapter 7 for Ledge Road, Davison Road, Lepper Road, and Cloverdale Road
4. Consideration for a Policy for Temporary Nonprofit Window Displays on Municipal Property
5. Morristown Trails Committee Structure - Adele Taplin
6. Morristown Trail Inventory Assessment and Connectivity Planning Project – Consultant Selection - Adele Taplin

VI. 6:20PM - OLD BUSINESS

VII. 6:20PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

VIII. 6:30PM - SCHEDULE

1. Monday, August 3, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, August 17, 2026- SB Meeting - 5:30PM

IX. 6:35PM - OTHER BUSINESS

X. 6:40PM - ADJOURN



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JULY 6, 2026**

Members: Don McDowell, Richard Craig, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger, Rose Belanger

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Carol Lauber, Jerry Throne, Dan MCLAughlin, Laura Green

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:33 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Don thanked Judi Alberi and Adele Taplin for their work on the Fourth of July and the sponsors for the successful event.

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 6-15-26

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 6/15/26. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (4/0/1) with amendments.

2. Approve minutes of 6-22-26 Public Hearing

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 6/22/26. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried. (4/0/1) Don McDowell abstained

3. Approve minutes of 6-25-26 Joint Public Hearing

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 6/25/26. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (4/0/1) Don McDowell abstained

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve SP&F Attorneys, P.C. to conduct the Town's tax sale

Sara Haskins presented a request to hire SP&F Attorneys PC to conduct the town's tax sale, explaining that new state laws have made it more difficult to collect delinquent taxes.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve SP&F Attorneys, P.C., to conduct the Town's tax sale process commencing in 2026. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Fireworks Permit approval - Kathy Demars private event 8-15-26

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the fireworks permit application submitted by Kathy Demars for a

private event at 279 Earl Gray Road on August 15, 2026 (rain date: August 16, 2026), and to authorize Don McDowell to sign the permit on behalf of the Selectboard. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (5/0).

3. Act 162 of 2026 - Vermont Forest Fire Warden Law change - Chief Dennis Digregorio

The Selectboard discussed a new state law, Act 162 of 2026, that requires fire chiefs to serve as fire wardens, with Denny, the current fire chief, expressing concerns about the additional responsibilities and lack of proper training for chiefs. Denny, who has nearly 40 years of experience as a fire warden and firefighter, agreed to continue in the role temporarily but emphasized the need for proper support and clarification from the state. Denny agreed to keep Brent, the town manager, informed and potentially bring the issue back to the select board for further discussion once more information is available from the state.

4. Morristown Police Department - 2026 Chevy Tahoe Review bids

The Police Department is requesting authorization to replace a 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe K9 Unit. This vehicle is six years old and currently has 90,000 miles. Historically, the police department has sought to replace front-line patrol vehicles every five years to ensure they remain mechanically reliable and capable of responding safely to emergencies. Replacing vehicles on a scheduled cycle helps reduce maintenance costs, minimize downtime, and maintain dependable service to the community. The proposed replacement vehicle is a 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV (Police Response Vehicle). The quote from Key Auto Group for \$93,655.22 was recommended as the best purchase price.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the purchase and outfitting of one 2026 Chevy Tahoe from Key Auto Group Inc. in the amount of \$93,655.22, and to authorize the Town Manager to select the most favorable financing option through the Town Treasurer's bid process. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

5. MOSA Exhibit - Carol Lauber & Sayler Ruggles

Carol Lauber of the Morrisville Alliance for Culture and Commerce (MACC) and Sayler Ruggles, the curator of the Morristown Outdoor Sculpture Art (MOSA) exhibit, presented their plans for the first annual MOSA exhibit, which will feature 3–5 local Vermont artists' sculptures located at five locations throughout Downtown Morristown. This is planned for August 5th through October 12th, 2026. Don noted that this art exhibit is a benefit to the town as a result of its achieving the Downtown Designation status.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the Morristown Outdoor Sculpture Art (MOSA) exhibit to be held from August 5, 2026 through October 12, 2026, as presented by the Morrisville Alliance for Culture and Commerce. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

6. Presentation and Discussion - Proposed Morrisville Arts Festival (Spring 2027) - Averill McDowell

Averill McDowell, an art teacher wrote a proposal for a public art festival in Spring 2027, funded by a Roland Fellowship, which would involve PA students working with professional artists to create murals and installations in the community, culminating in a festival at the Oxbow. The Rolland Fellowship Grant will fund half the costs, and private business sponsors will support the other half. Averill is working with Carol from MACC and asked for the Selectboard's support. The Selectboard approved the concept and authorized Averill McDowell to continue planning the festival in coordination with Town Administration.

Motion made by Richard Craig to support the concept of the proposed Morrisville Arts Festival for Spring 2027 and to authorize Averill McDowell, in collaboration with participating Peoples Academy students, to continue planning in coordination with Town Administration. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried

(4/0/1.

7. Consider approval of Morristown Bike & Ped Scoping Proposal - VHB Civil Engineering/Consulting

Adele Taplin and Mason Kemmerer, a traffic engineer and Morrisville resident, presented the following report. The Town of Morrisville was awarded a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Grant for the project, commonly referred to as the Morrisville LVRT (Lamoille Valley Rail Trail) Connectivity Improvement Study. The study will evaluate opportunities to improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between the rail trail and downtown Morrisville, including the Portland Street and Pleasant Street trail crossings, key downtown intersections, and the Congress Street corridor. The study will identify conceptual alternatives, evaluate environmental and right-of-way considerations, estimate project costs, and develop recommendations for future implementation. The board confirmed that traffic calming measures would be included in the scope of the study. Brent thanked Adele and Mason for their work on the grant funding for this project.

Motion made by Richard Craig to award the contract for the Morrisville LVRT Connectivity Improvement Study to VHB in the amount of \$64,877, authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract, and approve an additional appropriation of \$14,877 from the Bridge, Sidewalk, and Infrastructure Fund. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

8. Noyes House Museum preservation project - Review proposal and award contract

The Selectboard reviewed Adele's report on the Noyes House preservation project and the construction contract for the Noyes House Museum Preservation Project with Ben Levitt, Timber Frame Restoration, for \$37,844, including a 15% contingency. They also authorized the town manager to execute the contract and approved the town's required cash contribution of approximately \$24,000, with \$8,000 in-kind services to be completed by the Highway Department. Adele procured a \$14,000 grant for the assessment. Brent acknowledged the Noyes House's value to maintaining the community's history.

Motion made by Richard Craig to award the construction contract for the Noyes House Museum Preservation Project to Ben Levitt Timber Frame Restoration in the amount of \$37,844, authorize the Town's required cash and in-kind contributions as presented, and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

9. Laporte Road Sidewalk Project - Contractor Selection

Jordan St. Onge presented the sidewalk project overview for the Selectboard's consideration. This involves installing 680' of sidewalk and granite curb from the Feline Loop to Gordon Lane, and Audy Ln to Jersey Heights. There is currently no sidewalk along these 2 stretches of road, but there is sidewalks in between and beyond them. By filling these gaps in our sidewalk network, we will connect around 250 housing units to Downtown Morrisville via sidewalks. The project is fully funded through a Downtown Transportation Fund grant worth \$136,625, with \$85,000 in hard costs and the remainder in in-kind labor and equipment, resulting in a \$24,000 surplus for the general budget. There was no additional cost to the town. This was a complex grant that depended on the town's Downtown Designation status and was administered by Adele Taplin. Don thanked Adele for her work and noted that the contractor had been used successfully previously by Jordan.

Motion made by Richard Craig to award the contract for the Laporte Road Sidewalk Project to EEC Excavating for their low bid of \$81,700.00, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

10. Recommendation to Transition Payroll and HR Information System (HRIS) Vendor to Paylocity

Tina Sweet, Finance, and Cyndi Wiltshire, HR, discussed transitioning to Paylocity for payroll and HR services, with an estimated annual cost of \$16,781.70 plus a one-time implementation fee of \$2,800. Tina explained that all data is now manually entered into their 3-year-old system. The new system will improve accuracy and significantly reduce labor costs. Both the payroll department and HR will benefit. Brent noted that the system would allow a dual payroll testing period starting in October before the full January 1st go-live date. The board approved the transition motion unanimously. Brent thanked Tina and Cyndi for their combined efforts.

Motion made by Richard Craig to authorize the transition of the Town's payroll and HRIS services to Paylocity and to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract for an estimated annual subscription cost of \$16,781.70, plus one-time implementation fees. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

7:10PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

7:11PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (5/0)

7:15PM - SCHEDULE

1. **Monday, July 20, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
Monday, August 3, 2026- SB Meeting - 5:30PM

7:20PM - OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Executive Session - Labor Relations Agreement**

Motion made by Richard Craig to find that premature general public knowledge of the Town's strategy regarding labor relations and union contract negotiations would clearly place the Town at a substantial disadvantage by revealing its negotiating position. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to move that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss a labor relations agreement/union contract, and to invite the Town Manager, Finance Director, HR Director, and Highway Superintendent to attend. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn the Selectboard meeting and enter into executive session. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to reassume the Selectboard meeting at 7:35 PM. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

7:45PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

Submitted and filed this 7/8/26.

Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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

The Vermont Statutes Online

The Statutes below include the actions of the 2025 session of the General Assembly.

NOTE: The Vermont Statutes Online is an unofficial copy of the Vermont Statutes Annotated that is provided as a convenience.

Title 24 : Municipal and County Government

Chapter 117 : Municipal and Regional Planning and Development

Subchapter 007 : BYLAWS

(Cite as: 24 V.S.A. § 4415)

§ 4415. Interim bylaws

(a) If a municipality is conducting or has taken action to conduct studies, or has held or is holding a hearing for the purpose of considering a bylaw, a comprehensive plan, or an amendment, extension, or addition to a bylaw or plan, the legislative body may adopt interim bylaws regulating land development in all or a part of the municipality in order to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare and provide for orderly physical and economic growth. These interim bylaws shall be adopted, reenacted, extended, or amended by the legislative body of the municipality after public hearing upon public notice as an emergency measure. They shall be limited in duration to two years from the date they become effective and may be extended or reenacted only in accordance with subsections (f) and (g) of this section. An interim bylaw adopted under this section may be repealed after public hearing, upon public notice by the legislative body. The legislative body, upon petition of five percent of the legal voters filed with the clerk of the municipality, shall hold a public hearing for consideration of amendment or repeal of the interim bylaws.

(b) An interim bylaw adopted, extended, or reenacted under this section may contain any provision authorized under this chapter.

(c) Interim bylaws shall be administered and enforced in accordance with the provisions of this title applicable to the administration and enforcement of permanent bylaws, except that uses other than those permitted by an interim bylaw may be authorized as provided as provided for in subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Under interim bylaws, the legislative body may, upon application, authorize the issuance of permits for any type of land development as a conditional use not otherwise permitted by the bylaw after public hearing preceded by notice in accordance with section 4464 of this title. The authorization by the legislative body shall be granted only upon a finding by the body that the proposed use is consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the municipality and the standards contained in subsection (e) of this section. The applicant and all abutting property owners shall be notified in writing of the date of the hearing and of the legislative body's final determination.

(e) In making a determination, the legislative body shall consider the proposed use with respect to all the following:

- (1) The capacity of existing or planned community facilities, services, or lands.
- (2) The existing patterns and uses of development in the area.
- (3) Environmental limitations of the site or area and significant natural resource areas and sites.
- (4) Municipal plans and other municipal bylaws, ordinances, or regulations in effect.

(f) The legislative body of the municipality may extend or reenact interim bylaws for a one-year period beyond the initial two-year period authorized by subsection (a) of this section in accordance with the procedures for adoption in that subsection.

(g) A copy of the adopted, amended, reenacted, or extended interim bylaw shall be sent to adjoining towns, to the regional planning commission of the region in which the municipality is located, and to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. (Added 2003, No. 115 (Adj. Sess.), § 95.)

Public Summary

The Planning Commission asked whether the Town may use its zoning bylaws to adopt a tiered approach to regulating earth extraction operations. Tiered regulation based on the size or intensity of a particular use like an earth extraction operation is generally permissible; however, the applicable review criteria or standards must be clear, administrable from a technical and practical perspective, and enforceable. The Town's existing zoning regulations already provide tools to review impacts from earth extraction operations and impose conditions addressing dust, noise, drainage, erosion, setbacks, and site operations. However, adopting specific, technical regulations that are not tied to performance standards but that require monitoring the quantity of certain air pollutants in emissions from such facilities is problematic for both practical and legal reasons.

In the first instance, we have significant practical concerns about the ability of the Town to reliably enforce such standards. In Vermont, jurisdiction over air pollutants and monitoring rests with the Agency of Natural Resources because it has been formally delegated that authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and because it has the technical expertise to accurately measure and monitor emissions, which is no small feat. It would be very rare for a Vermont municipality, even one as sophisticated as Morristown, to have the staff expertise (scientists), technical equipment, and reliable methods to accurately measure air pollutants in a manner that would be admissible in an enforcement proceeding. As such, it's best that the Town defer to the experts in air pollutant monitoring and enforcement at ANR.

Aside from the costs and technical challenges with attempting to regulate ongoing air emissions or dust levels through zoning, any zoning approval that imposes an on-going monitoring requirement is likely unenforceable. It is likely unlawful for a zoning approval to impose on-going, post-construction monitoring conditions due to Vermont's strong policy of repose, meaning that municipal zoning decisions are entitled to finality once the 30-day appeal period passes. As the Vermont Supreme Court held in a 2017 opinion, any condition of approval requiring post-construction monitoring of a project's impacts that might then allow the DRB to subsequently alter or change permit conditions offends the principle of finality. While this does not prevent a Town from enforcing a violation of its performance standards, the Town cannot require a project owner or developer to engage in on-going compliance monitoring and expect future changes to continuously mitigate a project's impacts.

CHAPTER 7: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The objectives identified in each chapter of the town plan are repeated below with an indication of when the action is anticipated to occur, and the parties responsible for that action.

Chapter #	Objective	Time Period	Responsible Party
1	<u>Create and charge a board with studying the dual town name issue, with the goal of initiating a Selectboard, Village Trustee, or Town Meeting action that results in a binding vote on adopting a singular name for our community.</u>	1 year	Selectboard & Village Trustees
1	<u>This plan supports studying what it would entail to update the Village Charter, as there is like some benefit to be had by expanding the village boundary lines into developed sections of town.</u>	2 years	Selectboard & Village Trustees
2	<u>Current efforts to expand the Pleasant St. parking lot should be supported and funded by the Selectboard within the next 2 budget years.</u>	2 years	Selectboard
2 & 4	<u>The Selectboard should also create and begin to fund a capital account that, as the balance grows over the years, could eventually be used to create a deck of parking accessed from Hutchins Street, located above, but preferably beneath, the surface of the existing municipal parking lot on Pleasant Street.</u>	1 year	Selectboard
2	<u>The Planning Council should work with the Selectboard to help spur the redevelopment of both the Nepvue Building on Portland Street, and the Sunoco gas station at our main downtown intersection</u>	When either property comes onto the market	Planning Council
2	<u>The Planning Council should work with the Copley Trust to see if there is an appetite for funding a boardwalk along the Lamoille River that parallels Portland Street (linking Lower Main Street to Bridge Street), that includes lighting, benches, etc., with a purpose of relinking downtown Morrisville to its riverfront.</u>	When the owner of 90 Lower Main St. agrees to boardwalk location	Planning Council
2	<u>The Planning Council should open up a dialogue with the Bishop Marshall School Board about rezoning the school's land.</u>	1 year	Planning Council
3	<u>The Selectboard should allocate funding to update the North End Circulation Study so it contains post Truck Route traffic data. The Selectboard should also entertain if a similar study should be undertaken for the roads in</u>	4 years	Selectboard

	<u>downtown Morrisville given the recent growth in housing units therein.</u>		
3	<u>The Selectboard, with assistance with the Planning Council, should also work with the School Board and nearby property owners to open up a new access driveway to the school that obviates the need for all the traffic that comes down Elmore and Upper Main Streets from driving down past the fire station just to reverse direction up Copley Avenue.</u>	2 years	Selectboard
4	<u>The Selectboard should develop a permit process for all future point connections to the stormwater system on Brooklyn Street, with said permit process designed to protect the capacity of the system by slowing the rate that stormwater arrives at the swirl separator.</u>	2 years	Selectboard
4	<u>The Selectboard should look to acquire any adjacent properties that come on the market to ensure that there is ample room to expand the fire station, if needed, at a later date.</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard
4	<u>This plan supports continuing the current ½ penny on the Grandlist of annual funding from Town Meeting through the 2030 lifecycle of this plan (but terminating said funding in 2031), plus sourcing other grant funds, to help ensure the preservation of what is believed to be the 2nd oldest home in Morrisville.</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard
4	<u>To support awareness, and the accessibility of recreational amenities in our community, the Selectboard should look to employ someone part-time to staff the recently resurrected Parks & Recreation Committee.</u>	1 year	Selectboard
4	<u>The Committee should create an online calendar, and list of recreational amenities in the community, including: tennis and basketball courts, groomed Nordic ski trails, athletic fields, fitness and nature trails, the running track, the school gyms, and the 2 playgrounds.</u>	1 year	Recreation Committee
4	<u>If allowed by the pending state and federal relicensing permits for MW&L's hydro-electric facility on B Street, the Selectboard should open a dialogue with the Village Trustees regarding adding recreational opportunities within a leased, or acquired, portion of the Clark property that surrounds the dam.</u>	2 years	Recreation Committee

4	<u>The Planning Council should work with the Mt. Vernon Lodge at 65 Portland Street on a plan to turn the south facing side lawn of that building into angled parked.</u>	2 years	Planning Council
4	<u>The Planning Council should plan when a level of parking might need to be created above, or preferably beneath, the Copley Municipal Parking lot (with a Hutchins Street entrance to the lower parking level located behind the Nepveu Building, and with the existing parking surface becoming the top deck parking elevation, or the site of a community building).</u>	8 years	Planning Council
4	<u>The Selectboard should secure the old rail car loading area lease at the bottom of Pleasant St, from VTrans when it expires in 2031 so a proper parking lot can be built that services the downtown, and rail trail users at the kiosk. The Selectboard should reach out to VTrans in the interim to try to take over the lease before 2031.</u>	Prior to 2031	Selectboard
4	<u>The current status with the village paying property taxes to the town for property, including light poles, located outside the village for non-revenue producing properties (with most of the money being sent to Montpelier for education) should come to an end, either via the sale of the subject properties, or the possible expansion of the village line, so most of these properties can be located inside the village limits, and thereby become tax exempt.</u>	2 years	Village Trustees
5	<u>The Planning Council, in consultation with the Historical Society, should immediately evaluate if a demolition delay provision belongs in the town's zoning bylaw for contributing structures in Morrisville's original 1983 historic district.</u>	1 year	Planning Council
5	<u>The Planning Council, with an assist from the Historical Society, should evaluate if the historic district should be enlarged again to the south down E. High Street, Congress Street, Summer Street, Court Street, and Maple Street, as there are many largely intact historic homes in this primary residential section of the village that will be nearing 200 years in age by the time the 2022-2030 town plan expires.</u>	3-5 years	Planning Council
5	<u>The Planning Council should also examine if zoning per 24 VSA, §4414(f) should be adopted for the downtown's initial historic district</u>	2 years	Planning Council

5	<u>The Morristown Historical Society should help preserve the Civil War Bell hanging on the corner of Upper Main and Maple Streets by allocating the time, and resources, needed to help the owners of the bell, the Lamoille Valley Grace Brethren Church, preserve it, and make it available for public viewing.</u>	2 years	Planning Council & Historical Society
5	<u>The Morristown Historical Society, with backing from the Planning Council, should investigate the steps needed to designate the Grace Brethren Church, with the Civil War bell hanging in its spire, as a State and potentially even a National Historic Landmark.</u>	1 year	Historical Society
5	<u>The Conservation Commission, and the Selectboard, should work towards the purchase and conservation of the 82 acre “Bugby Springs” property (and creating recreational opportunities thereon).</u>	1 year	Conservation Commission
5	<u>The Planning Council, and Conservation Commission, should work to see if preserving the natural areas and existing scenery on our side of Elmore Mountain is attainable via instituting a design review district, or adopting an elevation limitation for new development.</u>	5 years	Planning Council
5	<u>The Planning Council should evaluate if wildlife and forest connectivity should be designated as §340 Environmental Resource Areas in the zoning bylaws to promote the health, viability, and ecological function of these important areas.</u>	3 years	Planning Council
5	<u>The Planning Council, and the Conservation Commission, should evaluate what zoning tools might be available to help better protect Molly’s Bog, and Joe’s Pond.</u>	3 years	Planning Council
5	<u>The Conservation Commission should also work towards conserving the private lands that encroach upon Molly’s Bog, and Joe’s Pond.</u>	Ongoing	Conservation Commission
6	<u>The School Board should evaluate the construction of a larger field house. Concurrent with the construction of the new field house, the school’s outdoor recreational facilities are also in need of attention. In order to allow that a regulation-sized track be rebuilt, it is recommended that the baseball field be repositioned, the tennis courts be replaced.</u>	2-3 years	School District

6	<u>To alleviate a longstanding traffic problem, the Selectboard, or the School Board, should purchase a right-of-way to connect Upper Main Street to Copley Avenue</u>	1-2 years	School District & Selectboard
8	<u>Direct new housing into the core of the village and adjacent parts of the town, support business growth in areas zoned for such, and reinforce the rural character of our town via the continued existence of the agricultural, low density residential, and open land in the rural parts of the town that create the sweeping and cherished views of our countryside.</u>	Ongoing	Planning Council
9	<u>An overarching objective for our community is to encourage the protection and use of local renewable energy resources, to reduce reliance on out-of-state energy resources, and to especially reduce reliance on expensive out-of-state nonrenewable energy resources</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard & Village Trustee
9	<u>Encouraging greater efficiency, affordability, and energy conservation is a primary objective that must be kept in the forefront of all energy related decision making.</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard & Village Trustee
9	<u>The Planning Council should study if it would be worthwhile to develop thermal energy standards, or more simply, to offer a density bonus to encourage developers to use heat pumps within new townhouses and new multi-family construction, so efficient heat and air conditioning can be readily available for these new households.</u>	1 year	Planning Council
9	<u>Given the town's significant fuel use, the Selectboard should make fuel efficiency a leading component in the decision-making process when municipal vehicles are purchased. The Selectboard should also consider setting a generous fixed fuel budget every year with the goal of spending unused funds when fuel prices are low on improving the efficiency of the town's energy use.</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard
9	<u>The Selectboard should immediately look to convert the interior lighting in town owned buildings to LED bulbs to create additional energy and cost savings.</u>	1 year	Selectboard
9	<u>The Selectboard should evaluate the town's daily energy costs of \$665 to operate to find savings through achieving greater efficiencies.</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard

10	<u>This plan therefore supports the Selectboard creating a housing committee that is charged with promoting the creation of all forms of new housing, including new affordable housing, and suggesting what incentives might be offered to help developers create more housing.</u>	1 year	Selectboard & Planning Council
11	<u>The Selectboard shall exercise all the political avenues available if the Green Mountain Care Board attempts to move critical hospital operations, like Mansfield Orthopedics, out of Morrisville, to ensure the continued existence of the hospital, with the hospital offering future health care services that are at least on par with current levels.</u>	Ongoing	Selectboard
11	<u>The Planning Council should also study if there are creative ways to encourage the creation of ecologically friendly car-free housing that could be built along both the rail trail and the adjacent banks of Lake Lamoille.</u>	3 years	Planning Council
12	<u>The Planning Council should reach out to the residences at 416 Bridge Street, 965 Cadys Falls Road, 48, 51, & 69 North River Street that are believed to be in the flood zone to discuss the benefits of carrying flood insurance.</u>	3-5 years	Planning Council
12	<u>The Planning Council should study the remote Special Flood Hazard areas in the town that have not had a flood study to determine if it is logical to adopt the river corridor layer, and to develop companion zoning restrictions.</u>	3-5 years	Planning Council
13	<u>Draft zoning bylaw changes that require major development and redevelopment projects in the downtown to provide pedestrian and bicycle amenities, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, bicycle parking, and other streetscape improvements.</u>		Planning Council
13	<u>Improve and expand the existing trail system that accesses Oxbow Riverfront Park, including formalizing the footpath that connects the park to the terminus of Foundry St.</u>		Conservation Commission
13	<u>Add an access point, or footpath, connecting Foundry Street to the Rail Trail, which would formalize Rail Trail access at each side of the Oxbow park peninsula, and also create a small walking loop through Oxbow Park that is accessed from the Rail Trail.</u>		Conservation Commission

APPENDIX II

Downtown Vibrancy Fund – Municipal Letter of Attestation

Must be signed below by a majority of the legislative body

Name of Municipality: _____

Downtown Organization Name: _____

Date of Completion: _____

The Municipality supports the work that our Downtown Organization is doing to further the development and success of our downtown. The Municipality understands that the Downtown Organization will be receiving \$25,000 in State funding through the Downtown Vibrancy Fund program to complete projects aligned with the Main Street 4-point approach: economic vitality, promotions, design, and organization. The Municipality acknowledges and agrees that this funding will supplement, and not supplant, any funding traditionally provided to the Downtown Organization by the Municipality.

The Municipality acknowledges that DHCD will review the Municipality's allocation to the Downtown Organization annually and may take any change in the allocation into future Downtown Vibrancy Fund program awards.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

(name)	(signature)

Trails Committee Structure

Purpose – an advisory and coordinating body to the Selectboard. Work collaboratively with the Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, community and trail organizations, and Town staff. Support development of a connected, sustainable trail system that enhances quality of life, promotes environmental stewardship, and strengthens the local economy through outdoor recreation.

Morristown Trails Committee

At least five and no more than eleven volunteer members from the categories below, appointed by the Selectboard. Initial appointments shall be staggered one-, two-, and three-year terms.

Members should live, work, own a business, or have a demonstrated connection to Morristown and its trail systems. A majority of voting members shall be Morristown residents.

Represented by:

1. MCC representative (required)
2. Mountain biking/gravel biking
3. Walking/hiking/running
4. Nordic/backcountry skiing/snowshoeing
– local active Catamount Trail user/board member
5. Adaptive
6. VAST liaison
7. MACC/LVRT group member (required)
8. Retail or other business representative
9. Student (school representative)
10. Paddlers

Also consider, in a non-voting capacity, a DRB/Planning Commission member.

Committee Organization & Governance

- The Committee shall annually elect a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its voting members.
- The Committee is intended to be scalable, with priorities and activities growing over time based on volunteer interest and available resources.
- The Committee shall meet at least monthly, or more frequently as needed.
- The Committee should consider developing bylaws or rules of procedure.
- Meetings should be warned in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.

The Trails Committee might also decide to establish subcommittees that include non-committee members/volunteers with experience in maintenance/stewardship, trail building, planning/mapping, fundraising, grant writing and outreach/education.

Roles & Responsibilities

1. Long- and Short-term Planning

- Develop a town-wide trails plan including opportunities to connect all local trails to those in adjacent towns
- Maintain and update trail inventories, maps, and connectivity information to support planning, maintenance, and public access
- Identify gaps and connections
- Identify and support opportunities for gravel biking routes utilizing existing road networks and connections to trail systems, including the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
- Coordinate with regional systems (like LVRT) and connections to local road networks
- Coordinate with other trail groups, including Stowe Trails Partnership, Catamount Trail Association, VMBA, Green Mountain Club, Vermont Trails & Greenways Council, Lamoille River Paddlers Trail and Velomont Trail

2. Identifying and Setting Priorities

- Annual work priorities
- Capital improvements (bridges, parking, kiosks, way finding, restrooms, etc)
- Grant opportunities
- Town-wide trails inventory and potential for connectivity and expansion

3. Funding and Sustainability

- Contact and solicit businesses to sponsor trails.
- Work with the Town to budget annual funding for materials and tools.
- Work with the Town to identify, apply for and receive grants.

4. Coordinating Project Work Groups

- Volunteers
- Nonprofits
- Conservation Commission on all projects involving conserved lands
- User groups

5. Maintaining Oversight of Identified Priorities (not doing all the work)

- Tracking conditions
- Assigning responsibility
- Coordinating work days

6. Developing Policy & Standards (which may differ between locations)

- Trail use guidelines
- Signage standards
- Maintenance standards

7. Communication

- Web, media, promotional and marketing materials/flyers, and public-facing trail information.

Morristown Conservation Commission (MCC)

Retains its existing authority and responsibilities and is not changed by the creation of the Trails Committee.

- Approve work on conserved lands
- Ensure environmental compliance
- Continue to oversee the Town Forest
- Steward other protected areas
- Partner on trail planning decisions
- Follow established best practices for trail routing, construction, and maintenance

MCC retains stewardship over Town conserved lands—the Trails Committee collaborates with but does not override MCC. This partnership may choose to have MCC continue to maintain some trails.

Note: It is recognized that there are distinct trails and trail systems that may not be suitable for further development and will continue with their current use and maintenance as appropriate.

MEMO

To: Brent Raymond, Town Manager and Morristown Selectboard

From: Adele Taplin, Economic and Community Development Director

RE: Morristown Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Planning Project –
Consultant Selection Recommendation

Requested Selectboard Action

1. Approve the award of the consulting contract to Sinuosity, LLC for the Morristown Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Planning Project.
 2. Authorize the Town Manager to execute the consultant agreement.
-

Project Summary

The Town of Morristown was awarded a **Vermont Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Planning Grant** to complete a Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Planning Project.

The project will inventory and assess approximately 20 miles of locally managed natural-surface trails, identify opportunities to improve connectivity to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) and other local destinations, and develop recommendations and priorities to guide future trail improvements. The project also includes volunteer training, community engagement, and preparation of a Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Plan.

Procurement Summary

The Town issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified consultants to complete the Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Planning Project funded through the Vermont Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Three responsive proposals were received from:

- Sinuosity, LLC
- CRO Planning & Design
- Resilience Planning & Design

Proposals were evaluated based on the criteria identified in the RFP, including project understanding, proposed methodology, relevant experience, qualifications, volunteer training approach, community engagement, schedule, and overall value.

Consultant	Proposal Amount
CRO Planning & Design	\$18,000
Sinuosity, LLC	\$19,100
Resilience Planning & Design	\$31,500

All three firms submitted responsive proposals demonstrating a strong understanding of the project. While CRO Planning & Design submitted the lowest-cost proposal, staff recommends Sinuosity based on its local knowledge, familiarity with Morristown's trail network and community partners, and extensive experience in trail planning, design, construction, and volunteer-based stewardship. Sinuosity's proposal also provides significant long-term value by training community volunteers to use standardized digital data collection software and assessment methods. This approach builds local capacity by providing volunteers with the knowledge and tools to continue inventorying, assessing, and updating trail information as the trail network evolves, reducing the need for future consultant assistance.

Recommended Scope of Work

Sinuosity's proposal includes:

- Project coordination and kickoff
- Volunteer training and trail inventory data collection guidance
- Comprehensive trail inventory and assessment
- Connectivity and gap analysis
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Draft and final Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Plan
- Supporting digital data and documentation

The proposal is consistent with the approved RTP workplan and the Town's RFP.

Funding Summary

Funding Source	Amount
Vermont Recreational Trails Program Grant	\$19,100
Town In-Kind Match	\$5,680
Total Project Funding	\$24,780

The consultant proposal from Sinuosity is \$19,100, matching the available RTP grant funding for consultant services. The Town's required match will be provided through in-kind staff time and volunteer services, as identified in the grant application.

Project Timeline

Upon contract execution, work is anticipated to begin in Summer 2026 and be completed by December 31, 2027, consistent with the approved RTP grant schedule.

Recommendation

Staff recommends awarding the consulting contract to Sinuosity, LLC for the Morristown Trail Inventory, Assessment, and Connectivity Planning Project and authorizing the Town Manager to execute the consultant agreement.

Sinuosity submitted a responsive proposal that addresses the complete scope of work, falls within the available project budget, and offers the Town the greatest overall value through its local knowledge, trail planning expertise, and familiarity with Morristown's trail network and community partners.