

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
December 15, 2011**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman; Chuck Martel, Planning Commissioner
Waitsfield: Bill Parker, Selectman; Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner
Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman; Jim Sanford, Planning Commissioner
Sugarbush: Margo Wade, Kat Holder
Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce: Jim Halavonich
Mad River Glen- Jamie Wimble
MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

The minutes of the December 1, 2011 Steering Committee were accepted as written.

Mad River Path Association- Update

Autumn Foushee, Mad River Path Association Executive Director, announced that she would be leaving her job the end of this month, to take on a position with ICF International in Burlington. She said that the MRPA board is very strong, and that mission will continue.

Updates:

The MRPA has tabled their pursuit of tax stabilization for property owners who allow use of their lands because of the financial impacts of flooding this year in all the Valley Towns.

Discussions continue with the Neill family regarding the East Greenway. Laura Brines & Tara Hamilton will continue this dialogue when Autumn leaves.

The Executive Director search will begin mid January.

Their web site has been re-designed, and will launch in the next few days.

Autumn feels that the MRPA board will have to modify some of their strategies going forward. Successful paths around the country have been the result of municipal efforts, land trusts, or both. We have neither. Most of the land crossed by the MP is in the hands of private land owners. The board will need to consider whether to hire a consultant, conduct a local survey, or purchase easements? Their efforts should be framed around recreation AND alternate transportation uses of the path.

Discussion ensued regarding tax stabilization. The Steering Committee offered that the MRPA board may want to continue those discussions, despite the financial issues the towns are dealing with. It was also recommended that co-ordination continue with the Trail Collaboratives.

The Steering Committee formally thanked Autumn for all she has accomplished as Executive Director.

Sugarbush Lincoln Peak Base Area Development- Phase II Lincoln Peak Village

Margo Wade provided the Steering Committee members with a handout, outlining the Project Description, Goals, History of the Lincoln Peak Development, the Proposed Lincoln Peak Village Phase II, maps depicting the Overall Site Plan, and the Phase I site Plan, as well as a spreadsheet that compares the various stages of development at the mountain over the years.

The application binder is nearly complete. They are meeting with the Warren Selectboard on 12/19, and will deliver the application to the Act 250 folks next week. They are requesting Full Findings on Phase I, which includes the Rice Brook Residences (15 units), the access road, parking, and the green space, and Master Plan Findings for the rest of the project.

With regard to wastewater, they have plenty of capacity. Domestic water, however, will need to be addressed as the project progresses. There is capacity for 25 units, which will cover the 1st phase, but more wells will be needed as they continue development.

Margo reviewed the Connectivity Plan with regard to vehicle flow, ski access, and pedestrian access. She also reviewed how the parking was laid out, and the rationale for the location and size of the parking areas.

Discussion then ensued regarding the “feel” of the area once buildings B1, B2, and B3 are built. Some members felt that, as proposed, the area wouldn’t be as aesthetically pleasing as it could be, and that maybe there should be more density in that area. Some members also felt that the entire proposed development could be denser? Since many of these units will be multi-bedroom, maybe pillow counts, in addition to the unit count, may give a better sense of the number of people accommodated?

Joshua then reviewed the MRVPD role in an Act 250 hearing per the MOU, and also reviewed the Act 250 criteria.

Timeline- Sugarbush expects that their 1st Act 250 hearing will be sometime in mid January. The next Steering Committee meeting is January 19. A subcommittee was formed (Jared, Jim Sanford, Bob Ackland, Joshua, and Margo) that will draft a letter to the Act 250 Commission from the MRVPD. This letter will be presented for approval of the Steering Committee at out 1/19 meeting.

In the meantime, Margo will send us digital copies of the application, when it is complete, and some 3D views of the development.

Directors Report

Joshua provided details on the following sections of his report:

Flood Recovery-

-Joshua attended the Governors’ Institute on Community Design Workshop on Flood Recovery & Building on 12/13 in Burlington along with two members of the MRV Long Term Recovery Committee. The workshop consisted of a summary of recovery efforts, a panel of experts from around the country speaking to best practices, and a broad discussion of additional opportunities for coordination.

-Awaiting to hear on MRVPD’s request for technical assistance in partnership with VT Dept of Economic, Housing & Community Affairs, Agency of Transportation, and Agency of Natural Resources to EPA’s Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program. The project focuses on community resilience to disasters in the MRV. The intent is to utilize EPA’s technical assistance to further develop the relationships, skills and institutional structures in order to provide inter-agency assistance to the broader state. The project also sets the stage for greater integration of hazard mitigation with sound land use planning. Award announcement is expected in early January.

Energy-

-The final MRV Renewable Energy Series event took place on 12/13, entitled Conservation, Weatherization & Efficiency. Approximately 25 people attended. Summaries of each event and all of the presentations are available at <http://mrvpd.org/DocumentsLibrary.php>.

-The 12/13 event also included a weatherization trailer available for residents to learn methods for buttoning up their homes. This was followed by a weatherization skillshop for Waitsfield residents on 12/14.

Transportation-

-Mad Bus Transit Guide & Map has been distributed in the Valley.

The first day of service for the Mad Bus was December 3rd.

Communication is ongoing with VTrans in regards to the RT.100 preliminary paving design plans. The current plans only show a 3’ shoulder. 4’ shoulders were expected along the length of the project. Waitsfield submitted a letter requesting broader shoulders. It has been proposed that VTrans attend the 1/19 meeting of the MRVPD SC to discuss the current plans and any opportunities for widening shoulder widths to accommodate bikes.

Waitsfield Infrastructure-

-Joshua attended a suite of meetings over the past two weeks as part of the second phase of Waitsfield's Decentralized Wastewater Management Project Study. The focus has been on developing the scope of a wastewater management district for decentralized wastewater systems in Waitsfield. The Wastewater Committee and consultants from Stone Environmental and TetraTech met with ANR in Winooski to determine the funding options for decentralized systems and address the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan and \$1,000,000S TAG funding that were originally developed for the "big pipe" system.

- Results of the intensive weeklong project were brought to the Waitsfield SB at it's 12/12 meeting, where by the SB unanimously approved moving forward with the next stage of the project: develop draft agreements among ANR, Town & property owners and develop a more detailed outline and mechanics of the loan program.

UVM Project-

-Final presentations on the four projects that Local Community Initiatives students had been engaged in through the fall took place at the Big Picture Theater on 12/7. The four projects for 2011 are Compost Power, Waitsfield Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, Mad River Valley Health Center, and MRV Solar Farm.

- It looks likely that this project will continue in 2012.

John Donaldson of the Mad River Valley Housing Coalition would like to address the Steering Committee at the January 19 meeting, to review their Affordable Land Pilot Project.

Motion to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

Next Meeting of the Steering Committee: January 19, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Martel