

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
April 21, 2016**

Present were:

Fayston: Chuck Martel, Select Board Alternate; Carol Chamberlin, Planning Commissioner

Waitsfield: Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner

Warren: Bob Ackland, Select Board; Jim Sanford, Planning Commissioner

CVRPC: Eric Vorwald

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

Others: Patricia Floyd, Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

CVRPC Representation: Eric Vorwald introduced himself, explaining his role as Senior Planner at CVRPC as well as the new RPC ex-officio representative to the Steering Committee. Eric noted that he has several meetings regularly scheduled on Thursday evenings, but his priority will be to attend Steering Committee meetings.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 17, 2016 Steering Committee were accepted as written.

Executive Director's Highlights and Additions:

- Vermont Planners' Association awards will be presented to both the MRV Economic Study and Vitality Series and Robert Vasseur on April 28. This adds to the string of VPA honors awarded to the MRVPD in the past several years.
- Joshua will be working on the creation of a systems map of MRV economic resources.
- The Vermont Futures Project will be presenting at the Round Barn on April 28.
- The initial Ridge to River analysis provided by consultants is being finalized; work will begin on narrowing the scope of work and determining what the second phase of the project will produce.
- While a bike lane has never been part of sidewalk/paving plans through Waitsfield Village due to such a feature being inappropriate in busier traffic areas, the West Side plan includes a four-foot shoulder to accommodate cyclists.
- GMT is considering a reduction in routes that serve the MRV, specifically the Saturday morning trip from Montpelier High School to Sugarbush and possibly the 7am Valley Floor run; Joshua believes the latter would be an important route to retain, as it usually serves several people commuting to work.
- A funder has come forward expressing interest in partially sponsoring a commuter route to and from the MRV from Montpelier. Joshua noted that municipal buy-in would be necessary for this to be established, and pointed out that the service would likely be a great benefit to those commuting to the MRV.
- There are still funds available for EV Charging Stations. Phase 3 stations could be installed in Waitsfield; Warren only has the infrastructure to allow for Phase 2 installations. Eric noted that it's possible to include Phase 2 EV charging at park and rides by a simple outlet installation on an existing pole.

- The Village Center Tax Credit Program has funds available for commercial, non-profit and multi-family properties; these are available for building renovation/rehabilitation.
- 2015 Data Reports were distributed.
- Joshua met with Ed Crowley for a discussion of increased community connections with Yestermorrow.

New Business:

Personnel Policy Update – changes in insurance coverage must be addressed, and there are several other portions of the policy that need to be added or amended. The draft CVRPC policy may be used as a basis for MRVPD's updates. Steve Shea will work with Joshua on a draft to present to the Steering Committee.

New Staff Position – Four finalists were interviewed, and there was agreement on a first-choice candidate. Contract details are being negotiated, and the anticipated start date will be June 1 or earlier.

Branding and Outreach – It was decided that this topic will be the focus of May's Steering Committee meeting. Joshua reported that he is putting together an RFP for updating the website, and also mentioned that the Twitter account is quite inactive and a logo needs to be developed. He did note that the newsletter is an effective means of communicating. It was proposed to use the 'golden circle' process as an introduction to the broader discussion on this topic; Joshua will provide information to Committee members about a TED talk introducing this process.

Old Business:

Community Economic Development Committee Update – The recent meetings of the CEDC were reviewed; the group is currently working to outline details of a vision of the MRV's future state, and perusing local Town Plans to see where there is support for these details. Planned next steps include the creation of a timeline/implementation strategy, from which will be determined funding needs and an exploration of funding options. There was a brief discussion of whether such a detailed analysis is needed before the CEDC provides a report and proposal for continued funding of the MRVPD. The CEDC plans to provide a report in June, and Patricia noted that the report will likely include funding proposal(s) for consideration. It was acknowledged that a full discussion of the report in June would likely allow the time necessary for decisions to be made regarding the next year's funding over the following months.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for May 21, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Chamberlin