

**Mad River Valley Planning District  
Steering Committee  
April 15, 2010**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectboard;

Waitsfield: Bill Parker, Selectboard; Steve Shea, Planning Commission

Warren: Kirsten Reilly, Selectboard; Jim Sanford, Planning Commission

MRV Chamber of Commerce:

Sugarbush: Margo Wade

CVRPC: Laurie Emery

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

Others: Robin Morris, Waitsfield; Darryl Forest, Waitsfield

The minutes of the March 24, 2010 Steering Committee were accepted as written.

Executive Director's Report: *Sugarbush* received its Act 250 permit amendment for Phase IB. The *Mad River Path Assn* postponed the Valley dog summit, and organized the 2010 Sugarbush Triathlon/Adventure games which were successful and had the assistance of 120 volunteers and 200 participants. All 3 Towns were awarded *Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants* totaling \$304,107 with 8 of the 9 applications being funded. *Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Energy Program* has an enrollment deadline of April 30 to get energy and lighting audits done for municipal buildings. J. Schwartz submitted a funding application to develop a Valley version of "*Front Porch Forum*" whereby online communication could happen among Valley residents in a more efficient manner. The application has been funded and J. Schwartz is looking for interested individuals who wish to work on the project. J. Schwartz is hoping to apply to the National Parks Service's Rivers and Trails Program for funding to develop a *MRV recreation trail initiative*. The interpretative signs and kiosks for the *Mad River Byway* are being built with Towns being responsible for installation which is expected to occur in June.

Valley Commercial Center: Infrastructure Update: The intention is to put in sidewalks and the water system while Route 100 is being re-paved. In order to accommodate this goal, VTrans will first pave the sections of Route 100 that are not affected by the installation of sidewalks or the water system and would then return to finish the paving once the other 2 projects are completed. The funding for the sidewalks and water system requires that the 2 projects be done together.

Consideration is being given to the development of a decentralized, distributed septic system for wastewater as part of the overall infrastructure for the Valley's commercial center. The positive economic impact of providing infrastructure needs to be recognized and understood. Infrastructure is necessary to maintain a vibrant town center and not lose the economic benefits that currently exist. It will take collective town support in order to protect the existing vibrant economy. In the distributed septic system, users would pay for the system. It was suggested that the Planning District's role could be to: research examples of inter-town municipal infrastructure, help to identify the benefits Valley-wide, and assist in determining the pockets of the population that would benefit from a decentralized septic system regardless of town boundaries.

It was agreed that the Planning District will articulate Valley-wide support of water in the commercial center and why this infrastructure is important to the Valley; investigate a decentralized, distributed septic system with the Waitsfield Task Force and how to keep it affordable; and prepare a mini-forum with the assistance of a knowledgeable consultant in the field (Juli Beth Hinds was suggested).

GMTA/CCTA Restructuring: Green Mountain Transit and the Chittenden County Transit Authority are merging as of July 1, 2011. It's uncertain if GMTA will get a new life or not, but it is certain that the Valley towns will not have a seat on the CCTA board after the merger. The new CCTA will have taxing authority which means that CCTA could tax towns that have a seat on the board. CCTA will continue to oversee the Mad Bus. It's possible that Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission would be the representative on the CCTA board for the Central Vermont towns.

Mad River Transportation Advisory Committee: The MRV TAC needs to re-organize and meet. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to appoint Jim Halavonich of the Sugarbush Chamber as a member of the MRV TAC.

Law Enforcement: K. Reilly summarized the issues discussed at a recent meeting of law enforcement representatives, including discussion on response times. It was pointed out that it's very expensive to increase the number of hours of coverage unless we have constables trained and can provide more presence. It was suggested that we see what peter Lazorchak is doing with the constables and training.

Memorandum of Understanding Subcommittee Update: J. Halavonich, C. Martel, J. Lisai, J. Cadwell and J. Schwartz will be meeting to discuss and review the MOU and present their findings to the Steering Committee in September or October.

Challenges for Change: It was queried what will happen to regional planning if this efficiency plan goes into effect, and where will that support to the towns come from if there are no regional planning commissions? J. Schwartz has been in communication with Adam Greshin about the Planning District's support of regional planning.

Next Meeting of the Steering Committee: May 20, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Emery