

**Mad River Valley Planning
District Steering Committee**
April 20, 2017, 7:00 P.M.
General Wait House, Waitsfield

Present were:

Fayston: Chuck Martel, Selectboard; Don Simonini, Planning Commission
Waitsfield: Kari Dolan, Selectboard; Steve Shea, Planning Commission
Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectboard; Jim Sanford, Planning Commission
Sugarbush: Adam Greshin
MRV Chamber of Commerce: Peter MacLaren

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm. Bob Ackland, Chair, brought the meeting to order.

I. Meeting Minutes from the March 16, 2017 Steering Committee Meeting

Bob asked if there was a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the February 16, 2017 Steering Committee meeting. Peter MacLaren provided the first motion, and Steve Shea seconded. Peter MacLaren corrected the spelling of his name within the minutes

II. Executive Director's Highlights of Staff Report: With Joshua a being on vacation and Kristine being out sick, Bob read the highlights of staff report provided by Joshua and Kristine, see attached.

III. New Business

▪ **Office appointments:**

- Motion made by Steve Shea and seconded by Peter MacLaren nominating Bob Ackland as chair and Jim Sanford as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Jim Sanford and seconded by Steve Shea to nominate Jared Cadwell as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

▪ **MRVPD logo**

- Bob explained the concept of working with the MRVCC to not design a new MRV logo but to utilize the existing logo such that it ties the MRV entities to the place of the Mad River Valley. The work product would be guidelines of how to use existing signage with inclusion of the MRV logo and branded messaging. Motion made by Peter MacLaren to authorize the MRVPD to fund an amount up to \$1,000 to support the MRVCC's financial commitment and effort to hire a consultant to develop a program for the use of the logo; motion seconded by Steve Shea and approved unanimously.

▪ **Sugarbush Update**

- Adam shared that snowfall for the season is highest in Summit Ventures ownership and that they are ~ 1,000 skiers visits shy of 350,000 season visits.
- He also shared that there are three Act 250 permits underway, two for lift replacements, Village Double and Sunny D; the third permit application is for extension of amplified music for the Friendly Gathering event at Mount Ellen.

IV. Old Business

- Housing Update – Bob read from staff report highlights provided by Kristine on work she is doing relative to Housing study and finding solutions that are possible for implementing in the MRV. See below.
- Community Vitality Project Update
 - Bob updated the group on efforts to coordinate with the MRV Rec District as CVP feels that the concepts CVP are developing need to be in the wheelhouse of the MRVRD.
 - Bob also shared that Warren select board had met with their reps to MRVRD and how beneficial that was to Warren select board members. Fayston and Waitsfield acknowledge that this is something those two select boards should do as well.
 - Bob also shared that CVP met with most trail organizations and all report that maintaining volunteer commitment is a challenge. Solutions for maintain sustainability of events and organizations fully dependent on volunteers are difficult and challenging.

Bob Ackland made a motion to adjourn and Steve Shea seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Ackland

Housing

- Kristine is finalizing the 2017 MRV Housing Study, which updates the 2006 version. A final draft is completed and staff is working on editing it for the final version. Kristine is also working on the creation of a ~30 page summary document that will be easier to read and digest.
- Kristine interviewed Chris Snyder, President of Snyder Homes, over the phone and asked questions related to past residential development projects (including a recent one in Hinesburg), barriers to building affordable housing, and possible incentives for developers to build affordable housing in the Valley.
 - Chris said the most important thing for keeping housing developments cost effective is access to water and wastewater infrastructure. He said towns could incentivize development by offering connection at no cost to existing systems or donating town land for part of a project.
- Tiny House Pilot Project
 - Kristine met with Mike Crowley, ED of Yestermorrow, others representatives from the school, and Dave Sellers on 3/22 about potentially collaborating on a Tiny House Pilot Project. Kristine had a follow up conversation on 4/20 with Mike Crowley, and he is going to meet with a representative from Northfield Savings Bank on possible financing a pilot tiny house.
 - Kristine had a follow up conversation with Downstreet on 4/20 and established the parameters of placing a tiny home at Verdmont. They are on board with the project and will be following up again on financing ideas available through their organization.
 - Kristine has begun to explore funding mechanisms for this program and has been discussing options with John Donaldson, who helped make the German Flats Rd home possible.
 - Kristine spoke on the phone to a former Valley resident and architect Damon Sidel regarding his interest in the affordable housing work of the MRVPD, particularly tiny homes. He has offered to stay involved and to potentially support the effort if there's a way to plug him in.

- Kristine and John Donaldson did a site visit on 4/13 with a Waitsfield resident that is interested in potentially building affordable housing on his property in the vicinity of the Big Picture Theater.
- Kristine gave a presentation on her work on affordable housing in the Valley to the Rotary on 3/22.
- Kristine met with staff at Vermont Center for Geographic Information to learn more about the Statewide Property Parcel Mapping Program. The Vermont Agency of Transportation is providing funding for a project to accomplish the initial creation and update of parcel data over 3 years to create a statewide, consistent, and up-to-date GIS database of parcel boundaries. Towns will be required to participate in one year of the program. The deadline to let VCGI know if a town wants to be included in the first year of the program is 4/28.
 - Kristine has reached out to the Town Administrators, Assessors and/or Listers in all three towns to gauge interest in participating and working together in the first year of the program and created a 1-pager to make the information about the program clear.
 - Kristine has also engaged all three towns about the possibility of working together on a future online mapping service (similar to the one in Warren).
 - Kristine has reached out to CVRPC and received a quote for the data gathering and web service development with a total cost of \$3,380 with routine updates and on-going maintenance of the site billed at their hourly rate of \$52/hour. Towns can also work with the future mapping contractor assigned as part of the Statewide Parcel Mapping program or expand CDM Smith's contract with Warren to include the other two towns.

Kristine provided advice on possible housing in the Valley to Robin Morris for one of his new employees.