

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
November 10, 2016**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectboard
Waitsfield: Steve Shea, Planning Commission
Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectboard
Sugarbush: Margo Wade
MRV Chamber of Commerce: Peter MacLaren
MRVDP: Joshua Schwartz; Kristine Keeney
Guests: Chris Keating, Valley Reporter

The meeting opened at 7:10pm. Bob Ackland, Chair, brought the meeting to order.

- I. Accept Meeting Minutes of 10/20/16 Steering Committee Meeting:** Peter MacLaren moved that the minutes were accepted as amended with Jared's name spelled correctly; and Steve Shea seconded it.
- II. Executive Director's Highlights of Staff Report:** J. Schwartz provided the Committee updates on several areas including economic development, flood resilience/water quality, transportation, recreation, energy, hazard mitigations, and housing.

Economic Development

Progress on Vermont Downtown Action Team (V-DAT)/CDBG-DR2 Implementation Grants

- The Warren Main Street Improvement Project had a temporary demonstration and block party planned for 11/5, however it had to be canceled due to a funeral going on at the same time in Warren Village. There is now a public meeting scheduled 11/14 at the regularly schedule Planning Commission meeting. Feedback will be gathered that will help inform the next design phase.
 - Stormwater has come back to the forefront of the project design process. The Project Manager has said that nothing has to be done in terms of the ANR because the proposed improvement will not expand the impervious surface. However, Joshua pointed out that based on the grant we do need to address stormwater. The project manager did recently provide a list of stormwater infrastructure options to consider going forward.
 - The project committee is still waiting on cost estimates and the project still needs to go through second part of Environmental Review.
- The Waitsfield Pocket/Lovett Park Project is at the 90% design stage and will be submitted to the DRB on 11/15/16.
 - The project still needs to go through second part of Environmental Review.
- MRVDP met with Richard Amore from ACCD who stressed that both projects need to be completed by 6/30/16.
 - Margo asked why the timeline is so tight for construction? Josh explained that the funders do not want the projects to drag on because they are suppose to address disaster relief from Hurricane Irene. Warren received money earlier than Waitsfield, but they did some additional design work to arrive at a concept to move forward with into design and engineering.
- The October MRV Dashboard was printed in the 11/8 edition of the Valley Reporter.
 - Waitsfield rooms receipts saw a positive change of 52% in July 2016 compared to 2015, Peter said it might be an anomaly because he isn't aware of any kind of major increase.

Flood Resilience/Water Quality

Ridge 2 River (R2R) and the MRVPD is working together to organize a community forum to talk about the work that has been done since Hurricane Irene and is going to serve as a kick-off for the Ridge 2 River work on stormwater at the Big Picture Theater. The date has been changed to December 7th, 2016. Joshua has been spending a significant amount of time on this project.

Hazard Mitigation

- The Selectboard will vote on Fayston's Hazard Mitigation plan in two weeks.
- Waitsfield's Hazard Mitigation plan was recently sent back to the Town with comments from FEMA.

Transportation

MRV Transportation Advisory Committee met on 11/9 and discussed on-going efforts to market and increase ridership on the Mad Bus. Kristine is working closely with Jasmine from the Chamber on some of the local marketing efforts.

Kristine has also been working directly with VTrans District 5 to address maintenance issues on Route 100 related to tree timing and the installation of a "Bikes May Use Full Lane Sign." Kristine also reported a light out on Route 100 in front of the Valley Players Theater to Valerie Capels, Waitsfield Town Administrator, who then contacted GMP to fix the issue.

Housing

Kristine is focusing a lot of time and effort on updating the 2006 Housing Study. The MRVHC has been providing guidance on the presentation that will be given at the Leadership Meeting on 11/16 about Housing in the MRV and recommendations of the updated Housing Study. Kristine has met with all three Planning Commissions to identify possible town owned parcels for housing. Kristine is also administering two surveys for recent housing seekers and business owners.

Jared asked who is on the Housing Coalition? Kristine and Joshua listed all of the people that have recently been involved in the meetings including (but not limited to):

- Karen Winchell (author of the 2006 Housing Study), Heidi Spear (housing developer from Fayston), Alison Friedkin (Downstreet), Dara Torre (Moretown), Christina Goodwin (Homeshare Now), Sarah Nussbaum (Capstone), Bruce Bertholon (resident), Perry Bigelow (resident), Miron Malboeuf (Town of Warren), Deborah Kahn (resident).

Recreation

Joshua met with the funders of the MRV Moves Plan (ACCD and VTrans) to discuss the details of the Economic Impact Analysis methodology. They are looking at ways to potentially apply the methodology at the state level.

Energy

Vermont Public Service Board released its energy standards and requirements for municipal plans to receive "substantial deference" on 11/1. CVRPC will be hosting training on the standards on 12/14. Josh recommended Planning Commission members attend this training.

- Jared explained that he attended a recent Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the general sentiment from town officials is serious concern about the new PSB regulations. VLCT is going to meet with Governor-elect Scott to ask him to reconsider the new PSB regulations. Jared said that towns want to do the right thing, but resources are limited.
- Kristine mentioned that CVRPC is planning on doing two-rounds of funding to help towns do energy planning.

- Steve Shea suggested that the MRV towns might want to wait until the second round of funding before starting the energy planning process to see if all of the PSB regulations remain intact in the future.

III. Old Business

MRVPD FY18 Work Plan

Joshua went through the FY17 Work Plan to highlight what progress has been made and what still needs more attention next year. Joshua said that overall the MRVPD has spent more time on recreation, transportation, housing, flood resilience, and the Economic Dashboard than was originally anticipated in the FY17 Work Plan. On the other hand, the MRVPD has not spent as much time on the Community Vitality Project, Sugarbush, and Placemaking.

The discussion then turned to the FY18 “Task Menu” for the Steering Committee to consider all of the options for staff to work on during the next fiscal year. Even though the MRVPD’s capacity has been increased by 33% by adding a second staff position, Kristine and Joshua cannot work on all of the possible tasks with the amount of hours available.

- High impact, low effort
 - Park & Ride Lots
 - Sugarbush
 - Warren Main Street Project
 - Sugarbush Access Rd Scoping Study
 - Waitsfield Pocket Park
 - Trail mapping
 - CVP
 - Waitsfield West Sidewalk Project
 - Municipal Planning & ZA Support
 - MRVTAC outreach and meetings
 - MRV Housing Coalition outreach and meetings
- High impact, high effort
 - Mad Bus
 - Active Transportation
 - Irasville rezoning & placemaking
 - MRV Recreation Plan
 - Finalizing MRV Housing Study
 - 2017 Data Report
- Low impact, high effort
 - GIS Mapping
 - Ridge 2 River
 - Year round transit service
- Things removed from consideration for FY18 work plan:
 - Route 100 & Route 17 intersection
 - Signage
 - Economic Dashboard
 - Act 174 Energy Planning
 - Elderly & Disabled Service

MRVPD FY18 Budget

Bob Ackland suggested asking the member towns and Sugarbush for a small reduction in the MRVPD's budget for FY18. Bob explained that there is a surplus available due to the fact that the Community Planner position was filled several months later than anticipated. There was a discussion of spending a portion of the MRVPD's budget surplus on a Recreation Plan for the MRV and/or on an economic impact analysis as part of the Community Vitality Project's work.

- Jared, Steve, and Peter expressed their desire to ask for level funding instead of slightly reduced funding.
- Bob said that no matter what the recommended FY18 budget is, that he would sit down with Win Smith to make sure he feels comfortable.
- Margo said that the budget has been circulated and she expressed their position that a portion of the budget surplus be applied to Sugarbush's FY18 contribution.
 - Peter expressed the importance of recognizing that the Steering Committee is late on our commitment to Sugarbush to come up with a different funding mechanism for the MRVPD.
 - Bob agreed that this is an important consideration but he said there has been an effort made to address the issue and progress is being made, but more time is needed.
- J. Schwartz suggested that the MRVPD and Recreation District identify what portion of the surplus would be needed to create a Recreation Plan. This conversation with the Recreation District would need to happen soon if they are going to consider providing a portion of their budget for a Recreation Plan in FY18.
 - Margo asked if we could look for some more grant funding for a Recreation Plan.
- Bob Ackland motioned to approve the budget with some portion of the surplus applied to a Recreation Plan; Steve Shea seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Keeney