

Steering Committee  
Mad River Valley Planning District  
Minutes  
October 21, 2010

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman; Chuck Martel, Planning Commissioner

Waitsfield: Bill Parker, Selectman

Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman; Jim Sanford, Planning Commissioner

MRV Chamber of Commerce: Jim Halavonich

Sugarbush: Jason Lisai

CVRPC: None

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

The minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

Welcome Bob Ackland: Bob Ackland is serving as the Warren Selectboard's Steering Committee appointee. Bob, who served on the board previously as a Sugarbush representative, was elected to the Warren Selectboard at Town Meeting Day 2010.

Executive Director's Report: J. Schwartz reported on the following activities:

- Mad River Path Assn
  - In discussion with the Warren Conservation Commission about Alderburgh Roe parcel for a potential Dog Park. Autumn and Warren CC rep will be meeting with Warren SB on 10/26. Siptemberfest at MRG sold out and raised over \$1k for MRPA. Mad Mad Dash 2010 was a big success – more sponsors than the previous year (total 35), 200 participants, and netted \$4,000.
- Mad River Byway
  - The kiosks and interpretive signs up at Wait House, Moss Glen Falls, and App Gap. All others done, awaiting town crews to put them up (Warren, Moretown, & Middlesex). The Byway brochure should be printed shortly.
- Valley Futures Network
  - The MRV + UVM service learning course kick-off event (9/15) for the *Local Community Initiatives* course was a great success. Joshua provided context for the work of MRVPD and the student projects. The students are currently hard at work in three groups focusing on the following throughout the semester: Mad River Path Interpretive Materials, Mad Bikes Research, & MRV Local Food Market Study. Final Presentations 12/8 at the Big Picture, 6-9 PM.
  - Joshua is working directly on the MRV Local Food Market Study, focused on better understanding the local market for locally produced food, identifying potential new market opportunities, and exploring innovative market mechanisms. The students have interviewed 6 Valley farmers and are in the process of developing a community intercept survey to be carried out in November.
- Energy
  - CDBG grant moneys being used – Gen Wait House ceiling insulated, basement scheduled.
  - Warren has created an Energy Committee.

- Approximately 200 people attended the 9/22 presentation by Dr. Ben Luce about renewable energy options and the pluses and minuses of solar and wind installations in Vermont, presented by Friends of the Northfield Ridge. Joshua has followed up with meetings with Peter Boynton, Pres. of FNR, to discuss coordination and future meetings. FNR is actively exploring the concept of a co-op solar project.
- Solar Communities – VPIRG Project – MRV in 2011. Focused effort on installer discounts, bundling gvt incentives, and attractive private financing.
- Joshua attended a 9/14 presentation on the VT Renewable Energy Atlas to the Waitsfield PC by Mike Brouillette of VCGI, including analysis of energy consumption. Planning is ongoing for a similar presentation on renewable options to FNR and the broader community.
- Waitsfield Infrastructure
  - Water – 207 ERUs as of today (15 in the last month). Deadline for free hookup is 10/31.
  - Survey has been distributed to ascertain the status of existing wastewater systems within the villages of Waitsfield and Irasville. Results are currently being tallied.
  - Exploring options to utilize SRF (State Revolving Funds) and \$1 million in EPA State & Tribal Assistance Grants) STAG to fund the creation of a decentralized wastewater system, develop a Wastewater Management District, and start demonstration program. Moving forward via conversations with VT DEC (Roger Thompson) and EPA Reg. 1 (Rob Adler - septic).
- Town Assistance
  - Waitsfield’s PDM Plan has moved up to FEMA for conditional review.
  - Warren is putting in a HMGP grant for bridge abutment work, but PDM plan approval isn’t an issue for this grant.
  - Joshua is providing comment on various sections of Waitsfield’s draft town plan.
  - Assisting the Warren ZA and PC on its town plan rewrite in regards to transportation, energy, and housing.
  - The next MRV ZA Brown Bag Lunch is set for 11/3.
- The Forest Wildlife Community Project
  - MRV maps identifying ecological priorities,
  - Development of build out models (Joshua will be contacting PCs in the near future – incorporate with other buildout interest)
  - Creation of a land use planning manual,
  - Formation of engineer and realtor trainings,
  - Exploration of additional conservation funding, and
  - Development of outreach tools (including sap bucket kits to new large land owners, elementary school curriculum development, and a website).
- Reapplying for eVermont funds to develop a Front Porch Forum (11/17 deadline).
- Provided letter of support to a Friends of the Mad River grant request to the Lake Champlain Basin Program for the development of a fundraising plan.

OnTheMap Web-based Workforce Mapping Presentation: Joshua provided a demonstration of the US Census Bureau's OnTheMap web-based mapping and reporting. OnTheMap was developed through a partnership between the Census and the US Dept. of Labor's Employment & Training Administration (ETA). The tool shows where workers are employed and where they live, and also provides reports on age, earnings, industry distributions, and local workforce indicators. The background data comes from the Local Employment Dynamics ([LED](#)) worker origin and destination data and the Quarterly Workforce

Indicators ([QWI](#)) profile files. Joshua's demonstration reinforced the figures from the 2009 MOU Data Report indicating a majority of MRV residents are employed in the MRV vs outside the area. Joshua recommended users to go through some of the site's tutorials. Joshua is available to provide assistance to towns that are interested in this data as well as present the data at future meetings, such as Planning Commission meetings. It was recommended that this tool be shared with the MRV chamber as it might assist the business community and business owners.

<http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/datatools/aboutapplication.html#WhatisOnTheMap>

MRVPD FY11 Budget & Work Plan Update: Joshua presented an update on the current work plan and budget. MRVPD work has focused on previously identified work areas. The budget is on track for the year – still looking at a projected carryover of \$10k. FY12 proposed budget currently identifies no proposed increases and looking at a projected carryover at the end of the year of approximately \$7k. Health insurance increases are not yet known. Jared, Bill, and Chuck agreed to participate on a MRVPD Budget Sub-Committee to provide recommendations at the November meeting. Concern was raised over future allocation increase requests and carryover amounts.

Annual 3 Town Selectboard Meeting: MRVPD is hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on 11/17 at 6pm, Waitsfield School. In addition to the normal requests (MRV Rec, Seniors, Health Center, Solid Waste, MRVTV, Chamber, GMTA), Joshua has invited Central VT Home Health & Hospice and the Central VT Community Land Trust.

Sugarbush Access Rd: Bob Ackland expressed interest in MRVPD participating in discussions with Senator Leahy's office regarding support in repaving the Sugarbush Access Rd.

Energy Consumption: Jim Sanford shared a discussion with the Warren PC about limited substation capacity in the MRV. Joshua stated that he has begun discussions with GMP to better understand limiting factors in energy distribution, of which substation capacity is only one piece. Substation capacity is one of the items included in the MOU Data Report.

MOU: J. Lisai's evaluation of the MOU and any changes that should be considered will be provided shortly to the MOU Committee for their review.

Next Meeting: The Steering Committee will meet again November 18, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Schwartz